

## Only one rail line 'worth electrifying'

Only one of Britain's main railway lines, the east coast line from King's Cross, London, to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, is worth electrifying, according to stringent conditions set by the Government in June. British Rail is under pressure to secure more efficient operation and productivity gains to help to make more routes profitable enough for electrification. Page 3

## TUC call for job creation

The creation of 900,000 new jobs every year from now until 1986 and an annual growth rate of 4 per cent are needed to bring unemployment below the one million level. The Trades Union Congress is expected to say in its economic review in January. Page 2

## Libyans try to disprove Reagan

Libya is mounting a campaign to disprove President Reagan's allegations that Americans living and working there are in danger of their lives. American oilmen on lucrative contracts there are expressing anger at the decision to call them home. Page 4

## Sakharovs weak and emaciated

Dr Andrei Sakharov and his wife were weak and emaciated after their 17-day hunger strike, according to Miss Liza Alexeyeva, for whom they staged the protest and who visited them in hospital at the weekend. They had been threatened with force-feeding and each had repeatedly been told that the other was dying. Page 6

## London Labour to end rates levy

The Labour Party's Greater London Regional Council adopted a policy of creating financial anarchy by local Government. Local Finance Bill. It decided to cease to draw up budgets and levy rates in 1982. Page 3

## Slogan bottled

The familiar "drinks pinta milk" slogan is to disappear from the nation's advertising media under a new "no milk" slogan, which will be replaced by "milk's got no value". Page 2

## Alst concern

Organizer of a two-week "no America" boycott, the Rev Ian Paisley, criticized British Embassy staff in Washington and the Foreign Office in London for a "total lack of support". Page 3

## Cash crisis

The local government workers' 7 per cent pay settlement has highlighted unrealistic inflation forecasts and threatens to spark a public spending crisis over the Government's attempts to switch its medium-term expenditure plans. Page 13

## EEC meeting

EEC foreign ministers meet in London today for intensive but informal talks seeking agreement on vital reforms in the Community's agriculture policy and budget contribution scales. Page 6

## Alfa cutback

Alfa Romeo has "its back to the wall" and plans to be idle for four months next year, thus cutting its output from a capacity of 280,000 cars to 130,000. Page 13

## Test set for draw

Sunil Gavaskar, the Indian captain, scored 163 not out in the second Test against England in Bangalore. With one day's play remaining, the match is destined to end in a draw. Page 12

## Skiing success

Konrad Bartelski, of Britain, the son of a naturalized Pole, finished second to Erwin Koch, of Austria, in a World Cup downhill race at Val Gardena, Italy, beaten by only 11/100ths of a second. Page 18

## Letters: On constituency boundaries

Letters: On constituency boundaries, from Mr G. P. Barnes, and Mr Tom Ellis, MP, on community with home, from the Bishop of Birmingham; playing in snow, from the Secretary of the Rugby Football Union; Leading articles: Poland; SDP and Mr Douglas-Mann. Page 9

## Features, pages 6, 8

Philip Hodgson points out the message for Mrs Thatcher in the lonely heroic columns; Des Wilson on the thoughtlessness of once-a-year charity; Anthony Burgess on the perils of being colour blind. Page 10

## Obituary, page 10

Mr Laurence King, Mr John Mansbridge. Page 10

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Thousand arrests ordered, Army on streets

# Poland shuts door on democracy with martial law

From Roger Boyes in Warsaw and Our Foreign Staff in London

The Polish leadership has put an end to the country's experiment with democracy by imposing martial law and detaining members of Solidarity, the independent trade union.

A Government proclamation banned a wide range of civil liberties, including trade union activities, foreign travel, and public assemblies with the exception of religious services. A 10 pm to 6 am curfew was introduced and everyone over the age of 12 was ordered to carry an identification card at all times.

Polish soldiers, who were told to use force if necessary to restore calm, patrolled the streets of Warsaw in battle gear. Some carried rifles with fixed bayonets. Telephone and Telex lines as well as air services with the outside world were cut off, creating widespread confusion about the fate of Solidarity and other non-government leaders.

The moves, which were announced before dawn, by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Communist Party leader, Prime Minister and Defence Minister, came after a week of bitter inactivity between Solidarity and the Government, with the party leadership accusing the union of destroying any hope of coalition rule.

General Jaruzelski said that he had taken the measures because "the country was on the edge of the abyss". In a speech broadcast repeatedly on radio and television throughout the day, he explained that he had acted with a heavy heart to prevent the total collapse of the Polish state which, he claimed, had been not days, but hours away. "We are not aiming for a military coup d'état nor a military dictatorship", he said.

A military Council of Salvation, which was set up by the general to run the country, ordered the arrest of up to 1,000 people, including leaders of Solidarity and former Government officials. But Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of the Solidarity movement, reported to be still free and consulting Government officials about moves to avert a threatened general strike.

Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the Roman Catholic Primate of Poland, condemned the state of siege but made no appeal for reason. "The Church learned with grief of the interruption in the dialogue (between Solidarity and Polish authorities)", the Archbishop said in a sermon at the Jesuit Church in the old section of Warsaw.

The official news agency, PAP, said that the Military Council was made up of 14 generals, one admiral and five colonels. A Government spokesman said that the authorities intended to carry out planned reforms of the economy in what he described as Poland's "second revolution".

The state of war will provide better conditions for economic reform by blocking chaos, unrest and the political oppositionists who said "no" to everything, he added.

One clear indication that the Army was now very much in charge of the day-to-day running of Polish affairs came when television broadcasters appeared on the small screen wearing military uniforms. Only official communiques were being read by the news readers who apparently had been drafted into the armed forces at their place of work.

Among the many restrictions imposed on Poles and foreigners alike was the need to obtain special permission to visit border areas. Diplomats were banned from travelling outside Warsaw and the Ministry of the Interior gave a warning that all foreigners might be interned if the situation warranted such extreme action.

Privately-owned radio transmitters, firearms and explosives were ordered to be handed over to the authorities, there was an indefinite ban on petrol, and drivers were asked not to form queues at petrol stations and all domestic and international flights by the national airline, LOT, were being cancelled again tomorrow.

Warsaw radio also announced new restrictions on the authorities to censor mail, Telex and telephone communications. Prohibitions were introduced on the photographing of specified buildings and the wearing of unspecified uniforms.

Force was authorized to restore order and a communiqué by the National Defence Committee said that the death sentence could be imposed on those who refused to serve in the civil defence and military service. A number of organizations had been what it described as "militarized".

They included the railways, ports, motor transport, the post office, telegraphs and telephones, radio and television stations, fire brigades and some power plants.

PAP, the official news agency, announced the cancellation of a session of the Polish Parliament originally due to take place later this week. The authorities also brought forward Christmas holidays for students and schoolchildren in this week.

Across the Baltic in Stockholm, Mr Jakob Selander, the official representative of Solidarity in Sweden, told The Times that a general strike would be launched immediately in Poland to counter the Government. "Solidarity has long been prepared for such a move," he said.

Banned organizations: The list of organizations banned under the emergency regulations was read out on Polish television (AFP reports from Warsaw).

Besides the independent trade union federation Solidarity, they are: The farmers union Rural Solidarity, the branch (unofficial) trade unions and the autonomous trade unions. The ban applies as well to all student organizations, plus the Association of Polish Journalists.

## Scargill rallies opposition to Government

The decision by miners to call for a strike ballot marked the start of a campaign of mass opposition to the Conservative Government, Mr Arthur Scargill said yesterday.

He told a centenary celebration of the birth of Willie Gallacher, Scotland's first Communist MP, "I can think of no more appropriate way to celebrate the centenary than that each and every one of us will take part in that campaign of mass opposition."

Labour Party members had an obligation to take to the streets in the peace movement, and to protest on the jobs march movement. Mr Scargill, who was speaking at Loch Gelly Fife, was making his first public speech since winning the election for president of the miners' union.

He said 1981 could provide the turning point in British politics. Mr Scargill also criticized the decision of the Labour Party's national executive organizing committee, to oppose the candidacy of Peter Tatchell in Bermondsey.

"I hope the national executive committee when it next meets will overturn this decision," he said.

"It is the first step towards a witch-hunt in the Labour Party. Everyone in the Labour Party had to be on their guard. If there is a danger, it is from those who don't believe in a socialist alternative, and remain in the party."

Referring to the miners' claim for a minimum £100 a week, Mr Scargill said miners' wages had been eroded over the past three to four years. "We are calling upon our membership in the next few weeks to support the policies which I believe they have already supported in the presidential election."

"We are asking for support because we know the only thing the (National Coal) Board and Conservative Government understand is the unity and determination of the working classes."

NCE worries, page 2

## Two Iranians killed in London car bomb blast

By Robin Young

Two Iranians were killed and a third seriously injured when a bomb exploded in their car in Connaught Square, near Marble Arch in the West End of London yesterday afternoon.

The three men were in a car which was preparing to pull away from the curb when the explosion happened. The two passengers, in the rear seats, died almost immediately. The driver was taken to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where he underwent an operation for severe injuries. His condition was said to be very serious.

Scotland Yard sources said last night that the men were believed to be supporters of the Khomeni regime who were transporting the bomb to a target. Anti-terrorist squad detectives and Special Branch officers were trying to discover the intended destination of the device, which was thought to contain between three and four ounces of explosive.



The bombed car in which two men died.

Residents who rushed from their select Regency homes when they heard the blast said it looked as though something had exploded. The car was parked in the middle of the road, and the explosion had caused a large fire. The car was a white Datsun Cherry, and the explosion, said a neighbour of mine was already giving first aid and comfort to the man in the front seat. His feet were hanging out of the window. His eyes were flickering and he appeared to be in a state of deep shock. There were two bodies on the back seat. It looked as though something on their laps had exploded.

Mr Ronald Prince, a dentist who ran to the car, a white Datsun Cherry, after the explosion, said: "A neighbour of mine was already giving first aid and comfort to the man in the front seat. His feet were hanging out of the window. His eyes were flickering and he appeared to be in a state of deep shock. There were two bodies on the back seat. It looked as though something on their laps had exploded."



Face of Poland: Members of a Polish swimming team who have been competing on the European Cup short course in Barnet, Hertfordshire, heard the news at their Watford hotel. They will fly home tomorrow as planned.

## Blizzards make Britain 'giant disaster area'

By a Staff Reporter

Much of Britain was turned into a "giant disaster area" by a new wave of blizzards sweeping in from the west yesterday. Many main roads and hundreds of minor ones were impassable because of snow drifts or fallen trees. Snowdrifts were blocked, thousands of homes were without electricity, others were flooded and two people were drowned at sea.

The snow came just as the weathermen had predicted. Devon and Cornwall were the first to suffer, as force eight gales caused severe drifting. The Royal Automobile Club described conditions as "nightmarish". Their spokesman said: "Countless roads are blocked, there have been hundreds of accidents, and numerous stranded motorists."

"It's a giant disaster area. With all the elements combined conditions are as bad as can be imagined. Thousands of drivers were reported trapped in 6ft drifts on a blocked road in Shropshire last night. Police using tractors and mechanical diggers mounted a big rescue operation to haul cars out of a half-mile stretch on the A5 between Shrewsbury and Telford."

"We don't think that any drivers will have to spend the night in their vehicles, but many of them will have to spend the night in either Shrewsbury or Telford, because the road is completely blocked," police said.

Gritting lorries were fighting a losing battle with snow covering the grit soon after it had been laid and drivers and rail travellers face long delays and a hazardous journey to work today.

Many roads in North and South Wales, the West Country, Southern England and the Midlands were blocked. The M5 was the only route open into Devon. Several motorways including the M1, M5, M6 and M11 had only one lane open in each direction. The A58 trunk road was closed near Exeter. In the Lake District and Kirkstone Pass between Windermere and Ullswater was closed and traffic was at a virtual standstill to the north of the Lakes.

In many cities and towns bus services were either stopped entirely or severely curtailed, including London, Birmingham and Oxford. At Oxford, on the edge

## Getting warmer

Warmer air was following behind the blizzard last night, the London Weather Centre said, and in southern parts of England and Wales some thawing will occur. The forecast was that all other regions will have bright intervals with showers or outbreaks of snow. Nowhere will be as cold as it has been.

At Dartmoor, the Women's Royal Voluntary Service set up rest centres in church halls for stranded travellers. Devon County Council opened its emergency control centre in Exeter but it could only report an increasing number of roads blocked and towns and villages cut off.

In Hampshire all major roads were blocked and the M4 impassable at junction 13, near Reading. North Wales suffered the worst conditions for 18 years. Every major road and most main pass was blocked by drifting snow. In South Wales conditions were only slightly better and in Swansea the police recalled their mobile

who serve in the Arctic winter unit helped local rescue forces. One snowmobile, normally used in north Norway, took two people from a remote village who were suffering from hypothermia into hospital at Salisbury.

In Staffordshire Leek was cut off as roads to Buxton, Macclesfield and Ashbourne were all impassable.

In East Anglia roads were blocked by snow and falling power lines. Sudbury was cut off and police in Norfolk withdrew their patrol vehicles after two became stuck in drifts. Some drifts were 5ft high.

In the Midlands Birmingham airport, which collected 10 in of snow in five hours, was closed. Power cuts blocked out parts of several towns including Worcester, Malvern, Telford and Stratford-upon-Avon. In London services on

## Test-tube twins due on the NHS

By Nicholas Timmins and Annabel Ferriman

Test-tube twins, conceived on the National Health Service, are due to be born in early June at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, north London.

If all goes well, they could be the first test-tube twins in Britain, and will be the first test-tube babies to be conceived on the NHS since the early work of Dr Robert Edwards and Mr Patrick Steptoe.

A woman, aged 31, from Stockport has been carrying the non-identical twins for 34 weeks after treatment by a team led by Professor Ian Craft, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the hospital.

If all goes well, they will make the Royal Free team only the second in Britain, and fourth or fifth in the world, to achieve a successful birth. The first test-tube twins, a boy and a girl, were born in Australia last year.

The success of the Royal Free team, who have worked independently of Steptoe and Edwards but have cooperated with one of the Australian groups, raises hopes that the test-tube technique may in time become a relatively routine procedure.

Professor Ian Craft said yesterday: "We are absolutely delighted. We are confident that success must come again."

Since August two other patients have become pregnant but have miscarried at about 6 weeks. The woman who is expecting twins, however, has passed the period when the risk of miscarriage is greatest.

Professor Craft said: "We are confident that we are ironing out the problems and we are no longer despondent. This offers real hope that the technique will in time become much more commonplace."

The sex of the twins may not be known until the birth. Professor Craft, who hopes to pass details to



## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Dispute over mobile health team

Epsom District Hospital has been unable to provide a mobile medical team from its large casualty unit to attend the scenes of accidents because of a dispute over who should pay the sum of £36.50.

Junior doctors at the Surrey hospital refused to turn out as volunteers unless they were covered by insurance against injury. The Department of Health and the district area health authorities said they could not provide funds for the policy.

After renewed requests from the ambulance service and the community health council for a "flying squad" from Epsom hospital, consultants there decided to raise the £36.50 annual group insurance premium themselves.

They were still £2 short of the sum needed when the latest emergency highlighted the need for a mobile medical team: a fatal accident at Leatherhead, five miles from Epsom hospital, which, because of the dispute, had to be attended by a team from Kingston hospital, 12 miles from the accident.

## Armed robbers tie up family and take £1,500

An Oxfordshire publican and his family, who were awoken at gunpoint, tied up and robbed early yesterday, are believed to be the latest victims of two masked men in boiler suits who have carried out about ten similar raids in the past six or seven months in southern England.

In the attack, at the isolated Fox and Hounds public house at Littleworth, near Faringdon, Mr Geoffrey Billings, the licensee, collapsed unconscious in front of the men. Mrs Audrey Billings and the couple's two sons, aged 21 and 19, were bound hand and foot.

The robbers, whose faces were covered with balaclava helmets, drove away in Mr Billings's car with £1,500 in cash and a video recorder. Mr Billings, who has high blood pressure, was later seen by a doctor.

## Housing Act 'is unfair to wives'

The Housing Act passed last year is leaving battered wives without a roof over their heads, the National Consumer Council claims in an introduction to a selection of model tenancy agreements published today (Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent writes).

The Act represents a considerable step backwards in cases where marriages break down, the council says. Landlords can no longer transfer tenancies to wives, though in most cases it is the wife who will have custody of the children.

New Tenancy Agreements, (National Consumer Council, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1, E1).

## Animal research centre break-in

Members of the Northern Animal Liberation League said last night they had broken into an agricultural research centre in Cheshire and discovered more than 2,500 chickens with their beaks removed crammed into tiny cages saved at a dime. Pigs were chained by the neck in narrow pens, and one was dead and decomposing, the league said.

A Granada Television camera crew had filmed the campaigners from the roadside. But management of the John Bibby Nutrition Research and Advisory Centre, near Neston, denied that any livestock were subject to cruelty. "We have nothing to do here and this break-in has done no good at all to the animals", Mr Max Little, the farm manager, said.

## Boy of 15 is Rubik cube champion

Cube champion Mr Harold Goldfarb, aged 66, of Whitwick Close, Leeds, died yesterday in York District Hospital. He was the most seriously hurt of 24 casualties when the 13.50 York-Liverpool train jumped the track and crashed at Ulfesself, near York, last Tuesday.

## Train crash man dies

Mr Harold Goldfarb, aged 66, of Whitwick Close, Leeds, died yesterday in York District Hospital. He was the most seriously hurt of 24 casualties when the 13.50 York-Liverpool train jumped the track and crashed at Ulfesself, near York, last Tuesday.

## Ripper inquiry ends

West Yorkshire Police Committee have been called to a meeting tomorrow to hear the findings of an internal inquiry into the investigation by West Yorkshire police of the Yorkshire Ripper murders.

## TUC to call for more jobs and faster growth

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The TUC is expected to argue in the new year that the creation of 900,000 jobs a year between now and 1986 and an unprecedented annual growth rate of 4 per cent are needed to bring unemployment below one million.

Those suggestions, and an immediate refutation package worth well over the £6,200m union leaders were seeking at this time last year, are expected to form central demands of the TUC economic review due for publication in January. The review, which is likely to be the most ambitious published by the TUC, will estimate that what it regards as the total job shortage will be at least 5,300,000 by 1986 unless present policies are checked.

That figure is intended to include those on special employment measures, the unregistered unemployed and a number of full-time jobs equivalent to those on short-time working. TUC economists contend that the present job shortage is more than four million.

Arguing that about 4,500,000 jobs will have to be created in the next five years if unemployment is to be brought down to acceptable levels, the review will develop TUC demands for a central planning agency modelled on those in France and Japan.

At the same time a draft broadly approved by the TUC economic committee implies that the main growth in jobs may well need to come in service industries, including public services, rather than in manufacturing.

Although the TUC will use the economic review as the main plank of a propaganda campaign against the Government's policies, its strongest impact may well be on Labour Party policy. A number of senior union leaders see the

TUC as filling a policy vacuum which they believe has been opened up by Labour's interne-cine warfare.

A confidential draft of the review admits that the employment targets it sets are highly ambitious and that the rate of growth envisaged has not been achieved in any sustained way since the war.

It argues that the proposals for a budget stimulus, which TUC economists will prepare for next month's meeting of the economic committee, will have to be "supplemented by further policies to encourage output growth and remove constraints".

The draft says that in service industries based on telecommunications and computing, the impact of new technology on jobs can be offset if TUC policies for economic growth and job security through collective agreements can be maintained.

But it predicts that the main area for employment expansion in the future will lie in the public services and argues that "there are huge unfulfilled needs in society which demand an increase in the public services", including education, health and community services.

TUC economists have yet to release to the economic committee a draft of a big refutation package would be required in the first year of the medium-term strategy. The TUC's figure last year of 16,000, which it has followed with a new target of £24,000m to be spent on capital projects over the next five years, has gained a wider currency than it expected among critics of the Government, including some leading Tory "wets".

The demand is likely to be increased before publication of the economic review.

## Miners 'special case' remark worries NCB

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

National Coal Board executives are embarrassed by the apparent discrepancy the CBI has over how to handle the threatened miners' pay strike.

Sir Derek Ezra, the NCB chairman, has been given a transcript of a television remark by Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the Commons, in which he suggested that the miners could be made a "special case" yet again because of increased productivity.

The coal board has told the National Union of Mineworkers that a projected £40m saving due to improved output next year has already been accounted for in the £102.5m wage offer tabled last week by the rejected coal field union leaders.

A senior NCB source said last night: "Our latest offer assumes the benefit of a further increase in productivity next year. The money is already on the table." His comment appears to rule out the productivity pay loophole suggested by Mr Pym on the BBC programme, *Question Time*, last Thursday, as a way of averting a damaging confrontation between the miners and the Government.

There is now a very real fear among some miners that next month's pitched battle will produce a 55 per cent majority required for the NUM to mount a national strike, although the union has said it will give at least a week's notice before stopping the pits.

Until the vote is actually taken, the departments of employment and energy are

playing down the prospect that the miners could drive up their pay to 9.3 per cent to 10 per cent and beyond.

Mr Pym's remarks, it is emphasized, were not to be taken as a shift in Cabinet policy, which remains solidly behind implementing the public sector wage 4 per cent rise in the 1981-82 pay round.

However, it is privately conceded that if the miners do vote for militancy within a month of electing Mr Arthur Scargill, the left-wing Yorkshire leader, as their new president, there will have to be further negotiations if a potentially disastrous stoppage is to be avoided.

The miners are preparing the ground for a special conference in London on Friday, when they will be asked by their executive to recommend an all-out strike to the men in a ballot on January 14-15. A vote in the more militant coalfields are expected to mandate their representatives to vote for industrial action.

Meanwhile, the coal board says its last "final" offer will stretch the industry's resources by £10m more than it can afford. On the other hand, the industry is completed, wage and salary costs would rise by £170.5m, swallowing up two-thirds of the price rise that took effect last month.

The current severe weather is also causing concern in the industry. If the vote is actually taken, the departments of employment and energy are

## Water workers may reject pay offer after union vote

By Our Labour Correspondent

Hopes that the 32,000 water and sewerage workers will vote to accept a 9.1 per cent pay offer have been unexpectedly shaken by a decision of the industry's highest union in the industry.

The national water committee of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe), which has about 10,000 members in the industry, has voted not to endorse a unanimous recommendation by the negotiators for acceptance of the offer in day-long talks last Tuesday.

The decision, taken at the weekend and repeated by the union's executive, could throw into question whether the negotiators can command a majority for a package which they have said is the most they can secure without resorting to industrial action.

The union's national committee for local government manual workers, nearly half of whom are in Nupe, also refused to endorse their pay offer of between 6.3 and 7.8 per cent, but that decision was thought unlikely to prevent the offer being accepted, and was in line with a joint union decision by negotiators on Thursday.

The water committee's decision, which was said to have been influenced by the continued deadlock over miners' pay, the Chancellor's latest budget changes, and the higher than expected offer to local authority manual workers, has more significance, since union

leaders had in any case been predicting a tight vote.

The National Water Council, nevertheless, remains hopeful that branch meetings in all four of the industry's regions due to be completed by the end of the first week in January, will endorse the offer, which would add between £5 and £7.15 a week to a worker's pay.

Mr Edmund Newall, chief negotiator for the four unions and national officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, which represents nearly two-thirds of the water workers, said last night that he had told his members the offer was the best they could get by negotiation.

The offer will be put to GMWU branch meetings with the negotiators' recommendation. The union does not use any equivalent process to Nupe's reference of a national pay offer to an industrial committee, and then to the executive.

It was clear last night that Nupe's executive had failed to ratify the manual workers' offer, largely in order not to be seen as approving a pay deal well below the inflation rate at a time when the union is promoting common claims of about 12 to 13 per cent.

A statement said yesterday that the unions had "smashed the Government's 4 per cent limit, and in that we have achieved our objective". It was leaving to the members whether to accept that or go for the full claim.



Professor Ian Craft at work in the Royal Free Hospital

## The test-tube twins breakthrough

By Nicholas Timmins and Annabel Ferriman

Professor Ian Craft first started work on the test-tube baby technique in 1977, some nine years after Steptoe and Edwards began their work at Oldham General Hospital.

Up to July, 1980, he says, eggs had been removed from about eight women. While a number were fertilized, only 15 embryos were transferred to the mothers. In mid-1979 one pregnancy was achieved but the mother miscarried at six to seven weeks.

Professor Craft said yesterday, however, that a number of changes in technique earlier this year had led to the present success. Two drugs are used to simplify and control the collection of ova so that their release is predictable and they can be collected during normal operating hours.

First the woman's monthly cycle is carefully monitored, using ultrasound to detect the growth of the follicles in the ovary from which the egg is released.

When the decision to proceed has been made, a fertility drug, clomiphene, is given to stimulate the follicle growth. That is followed by another drug, gonadotrophin, to trigger the release of the ovum. Thirty-six hours after the gonadotrophin is given, the egg is removed.

Originally the team fertilized the ovum immediately. But consultation with one of the groups working in Melbourne, Australia, who have produced live births, has led Professor Craft's group at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, north London, to leave the eggs in a culture medium for between four and six hours to

allow them to ripen further before fertilization.

That appears to make it easier for the sperm to penetrate and fertilize the egg, and also produces embryos more likely to start dividing and developing normally.

The use of the drugs also increases the number of ova released. Instead of the one egg usually produced in a normal cycle an average of two and sometimes up to five can be obtained.

That is done by laparoscopy, the technique in which a small puncture is made in the abdomen, allowing a telescope and aspirating needle to be introduced to suck the eggs from the follicles on the surface of the ovary.

Once the ova have successfully fertilized and appear normal, up to two and sometimes three embryos are reimplanted, after they have developed to the two or four cell stage.

Professor Craft said that use of a new type of catheter, made of Teflon, to introduce the embryos through the cervix had been a key development, also contributed to the success, as had improved methods of preparing and concentrating the sperm before fertilization.

In the case of the woman now carrying twins, an attempt to give her a test-tube baby in July failed. In September, however, ova were obtained and fertilized, and the embryos were inserted 49 hours after the ova were removed.

The pregnant woman has no previous children and was in fact born with one ovary and fallopian tube missing. Most of the remaining fallopian tube had to be removed last year,

when she suffered an ectopic pregnancy, a potentially dangerous condition when the embryo implants in a fallopian tube rather than the womb.

"Her only chance of becoming pregnant was by the test-tube baby technique", Professor Craft said.

He praised the work of the research team of four, and the patients "who are prepared to go to any lengths to have a child".

The work has been financed almost entirely by the National Health Service, as part of the hospital's normal work, with no charge to patients.

On average three to four women a week are treated by the test-tube baby technique at the Royal Free Hospital, which has had to restrict the number of patients treated.

Professor Craft said it would not be possible to expand the programme because of other commitments.

"At the moment it is very time-consuming, although the procedures are relatively simple in principle. Our current interest is in trying to see whether we can simplify the technique to make it possible for women to be treated in their local district general hospital."

It is important that people realize that this technique is not the answer to all forms of infertility. It may, however, be the most cost-effective way of dealing with diseases of the fallopian tube, rather than conventional forms of surgery.

"It might also be used to treat other forms of infertility, such as unexplained infertility."

## Ministers will defend job training plan

By Our Labour Staff

The Government will mount a strong defence of the proposals that are likely to be the most controversial in the new package of training measures which it will unveil tomorrow.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, has come under pressure from some of his own backbenchers to ensure that the plans do not founder because of poor "presentation".

They fear that the Government's plans to transform the training system, which they believe could be prejudiced by the controversy over the proposed reduction in young people's allowances to about £16 a week, and the withholding of supplementary benefit from those who refuse a training place.

The two measures seem likely to provoke an outcry from trade union leaders. The TUC has been pressing the Government to increase the Youth Opportunities Programme allowance from £23.50 a week to £30.

Anxious Conservative backbenchers have been meeting in the day have been delayed.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), based in Manchester, suppliers to the co-operative retail societies, which together make up Britain's largest retail organization, yesterday reported no great delivery difficulties so far.

Argos, which has 116 catalogue showrooms and has been a leading discount store on toy prices to attract Christmas shoppers, reported sales last week to be 21 per cent down on expectations.

Christmas sales are crucial to a number of sectors as well as the toy industry, which makes 10 per cent of its sales at this time of year.

Wine and spirit sales peak at this time of the year; other sectors which normally see high December sales, apart from obvious seasonal goods such as crackers and cards, are confectionery and small electrical goods.

Argos estimates it lost £500,000 in expected profits last week as customers were put off by the weather.

## London is arena for terrorists

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The consequences of violent Middle Eastern Political conflicts are often to be seen in London. El Al airline crews never travel without a large police escort, Arab embassies are guarded by television cameras and the Iranian Embassy, at 10, Whitehall, Kensington, still bears the scars of last year's siege.

For almost eight years London has been the arena for bloody skirmishes in the battles between countries and factions from half way across the world, and there is little sign that the skirmishes will stop.

London became a target because by the late 1970s it was both a pleasure resort for the Arab world and a haven for refugees from Middle Eastern power struggle.

In London today, there are representatives of almost every Arab faction, ranging from Kurdish separatists to Egyptian extremists.

Terrorists arrive and survive because it is extremely difficult to single them out. Police have an intelligence system for checking arrivals at air and sea ports but it is far from infallible despite 40,000 checks last year.

The list of recent terrorist incidents in London is extensive, and includes the following:

1981: June—Suspected explosion at Iraqi Embassy, Queen's Gate, 1980: December—Bombing at Libyan Airlines office, Piccadilly, September—Iraqi student found at Heathrow carrying TNT into the country in tubes of shaving cream. June—Bomb shatters front of Kuwait Oil Company in New Bond Street. First Secretary of Libyan Embassy expelled after announcing plans to kill more opponents of the Gaddafi regime.

April/May—Iranian Embassy attacked, bonfires taken. Two Libyans murdered, one a journalist, on leaving the central London mosque in Regent's Park. Explosion in Iranian terrorists' bomb factory on fourth floor of Queen's Gardens Hotel, Epsom, kills one and injures another. January—Arab dies in London hotel bomb explosion.

## Tatchell appeals for a hearing

By Philip Webster and David Walker

Mr Peter Tatchell and the officers of the Labour Party have appealed to the Labour Party's National Executive Committee to be allowed to put their case before it decides whether to confirm the organization's committee's refusal to endorse Mr Tatchell as a parliamentary candidate.

A letter has been sent to Mr Ronald Hayward, Labour's general secretary, asking the NEC to defer a decision until the Birmingham party has had an opportunity of defending itself.

Mr Tatchell told *The Times* last night that he, Mr Edward Bowman, the Birmingham party chairman, and Mrs Bette Crickmar, the vice-chairman, were organized to bring a further pressure on the NEC in Birmingham to confirm the rejection of Mr Tatchell and the decision to set up an inquiry into the Militant Tendency.

The letter is the latest move in a defiant campaign by Mr Tatchell and his party to resist last week's decision. His case has been taken up by the far left as a test case, and Mr Wedgwood Benn will be speaking in his support at a rally, organized by the Militant Tendency, on Wednesday night.

Mr William Hamilton yesterday held off a strong left-wing Labour challenge and was re-elected as prospective parliamentary candidate in his constituency of Epsom. A selection conference last week ended in a tie between Mr Hamilton and Mr Henry Meleish. Yesterday, after a week of determined lobbying by both sides, Mr Hamilton won by 22 votes to 14.

He wants a by-election because he has changed his views on the NEC.

Miss Harriet Harman, who describes herself as a supporter of Mr Wedgwood Benn, was last night selected as Labour candidate for the South London constituency of Peckham. This represents another shift to the left in London Labour parties.

The present Labour MP for Peckham is Mr Harry Lamborn, aged 66, a moderate who has acted as campaign manager for Mr Denis Healey in party leadership elections.

By-election challenge

Mr Jeffrey Thomas, the MP who left the Labour Party and joined the Social Democrats, was challenged yesterday to fight a by-election in his constituency of Aberdare. Mr Robert Reider, the Labour Party secretary in the South Wales constituency, said he would pay Mr Thomas's deposit.

Mr Thomas has rejected the challenge, but the SDP's senior committee will meet in London today to discuss difficulties caused for the party by Mr Bruce Douglas-Mann's determination to fight a by-election in his Merton, Mitcham and Morden constituency after announcing his own withdrawal from the Labour Party.

He wants a by-election because he has changed his views on the NEC but has angered both the SDP leaders who regard his stance as self-indulgent, and the constituency Social Democrats, who feel it is unacceptable for him to say he wants to be selected by the SDP.

Leading article, page 9  
End of rates demands, page 3  
Diary, page 8

## HOWE 'WILL NOT CUT BENEFITS'

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Conservative MPs who rebelled against the Government in last week's public spending debate believe their action has persuaded Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to drop his plan to cut short-term benefits by 2 per cent in real terms.

After a private meeting of Conservative backbenchers last Tuesday night Mr Michael Joyling, the chief whip, was told that there would be a "double-figure abstention" in the debate on the day, but that at least twice that number would vote against the short-term benefit orders when they came before the Commons.

Having shown, with 14 objections, that their threat on the public spending vote was not an empty one, the critics are certain that the Government will not risk humiliation on the 2 per cent cut. "We have won on the one. They have seen sense," a prominent abstainer said yesterday.

In a sense the Chancellor's retreat on the 2 per cent cut, which would have saved the Treasury about £60m, was inevitable. Only a few more than twenty Conservatives would have been required to vote with the Opposition to defeat it. The critics knew they can muster more than enough.

The "wets" are now turning their sights towards the Budget. They have told ministers they are looking for a series of proposals that will give positive encouragement to industry, and in so doing offer hope to the unemployed. Capital investment in new plant like the Channel tunnel a move against high interest rates and the beginning of the end of the national insurance surcharge.

## Science report

## Absence of gene leads to stunted growth

By the Staff of "Nature"

The absence of a gene has now been shown to be the cause of a form of stunted growth in human beings that cannot be treated by the administration of human growth hormone.

The discovery, due to Dr John A. Phillips and Brian L. Helle from Johns Hopkins University, Dr Peter C. Schur from Genentech, the United States genetic engineering company, and Dr Milo Zechmann from Zurich University, is based on a genetic analysis of 15 members of three related Swiss families in which the growth deficiency is inherited. All six parents have normal stature, but the growth of four out of nine children is stunted.

Much stunted growth seems to be caused by a deficiency of the naturally occurring hormone called human growth hormone which can be corrected by the administration during infancy and afterwards of hormone obtained from dead people. The Swiss cases now studied cannot be dealt with in this way because they produce anti-body which neutralizes the hormone is injected, thus neutralizing its effects. Such "type A" cases of growth hormone are a small fraction of all such cases, which are estimated at about one in 6,000 of all live births.

The proof that the four affected Swiss children entirely lack the gene responsible for making the growth hormone has been accomplished through techniques of genetic engineering.

On the evidence available, chromosomes from the four children entirely lack pieces of DNA corresponding to the natural gene for human growth hormone, which is known to be located on the human chromosome seven.

The authors of the research conclude that those with type A growth hormone deficiency have inherited from each of their parents a set of chromosomes in which the hormone gene is missing. Persons inheriting one normal and one defective chromosome appear to produce enough of the normal hormone to be able to grow to normal stature.

Presumably individuals with the type A deficiency produce antibodies which neutralize injected hormone because, never having produced the hormone for themselves, they have no distinguishing between it and some other foreign protein.

The research may provide a clearer understanding of the common form of growth hormone deficiency. This is of practical importance when genetic engineering companies are trying to manufacture the hormone.

In Britain, the issue has recently become of particular importance because of the way in which supplies of the hormone, derived from public and hospital mortuaries, have recently declined, so that the National Health Service is soon to reduce the doses of the material administered to patients.

Source: *Proceedings of the US National Academy of Sciences*, Vol 78, pp 6372-6375 (October 1981).

Nature-Times News Service 1981.

## Fedorowicz triumphs

From Harry Golombek, Brighton

By beating Heiden in a complicated match which lasted round of the Regency Masters Tournament here yesterday, the American international master John Fedorowicz not only first prize but also a handsome grandmaster status by gaining seven points.

King, Kovacevic, the British grandmasters Miles, Nunn and Regan shared second place with 6½ points.

Chen, Hartlieb, Heiden and Pryor tied for seventh place with six points.

Remaining scores: Borg, Hodgson, Kenworthy, Kuligowski, Plaskett and Talbot 5½ points; Britton, Cava, Cummings, Fildes, Jacobs, Kosten, Lee, Leverett, Pilester and Westwood 5 points; Gelfand, Harriet, Lev, Mouchet, Pankov, Paric, 4½ points; C. But, de Boer, Jakov, Muir, Nokes, Nykopp, Porth, Rose, van der Sterren, 4 points; Dunnington, Fishick and Triger 3½ points; Formanek, D Lee, Roll, Schiller, 3½ points; H. J. Parron, 3 points; Haldemann 3 points; O'Brien 2½ points; Josephs 1 point.

## CORRECTION

An opinion poll in Scotland after the Crosby by-election showed 77 per cent support, compared with 16 per cent for the Labour Party, for the SDP-Liberal Alliance, as the SDP as reported on December 4.

Overseas selling prices:  
Belgium B 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 3



# London Labour group to stop demanding rates

By David Walker

A policy of deliberately created financial anarchy which could mark the beginning of the end of the Labour Party as the prime mover in the municipal government of London was adopted at a weekend conference at the official tactic against the Government's new Local Finance Bill.

Delegates from more than eighty constituencies and a score of trade unions on the Greater London Regional Council of the Labour Party decided to cease to draw up budgets and levy rates next year.

That would foment a local government crisis, the executive committee said.

Mr Edward Knight, leader of Lambeth council and one of the architects of the policy, amplified that into "a crisis of such dimension that you persuade the Government to retreat or you force the very existence of that Government on to the agenda".

Mr Knight wants Lambeth to try the policy first, but one Lambeth councillor, Mr Neil Turner, said that the council's director of finance would be suspended if he came between the Labour group and its policy.

While the London Labour Party has decided to take all possible steps to resist the Tory Government's attacks on local authority services, its resolution added: "We do not expect Labour councillors to embark on any course of action which is clearly contrary to law."

Thanks to the block vote cast by the large London region of the Transport and General Workers' Union, acting in concert with the electricians and general workers' delegations, the party was saved from adopting policies of mass mobilization of town hall staff of

general strikes, and rejected a motion calling on Labour councils to freeze rents, make no rate increases and not to cut spending.

The conference had been called when the Local Finance Bill still contained the proposal to force councils to hold referendums before levying rates above a certain level. That has now been dropped from the Bill and Mr Arthur Latham, the conference chairman, was clearly embarrassed that he did not know what the Bill will now contain.

Other suggestions included "disengagement" with Labour councillors resigning from their committee chairmanships in order to allow opposition councillors to put disliked policies into effect.

The few Labour council leaders in attendance, including Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, preferred to stay put. "We will stay in there and fight," he said.

Members of militant tendency, including most of the Labour Party Young Socialists, favoured a 24-hour general strike. "It could force the Tories to retreat and begin a determined drive to force a general election", a young socialist's resolution said.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, might have drawn some comfort from the proceedings, if only to observe how deep his message about rate levels has sunk. Mr Knight said: "Raising rates is politically and practically unacceptable".

Fifteen thousand people, one in four of London Transport's staff, will lose their jobs if Lord Deming's decision on the illegality of the GLC's fares subsidy is upheld by the House of Lords when it gives judgment

this week, Mr Livingstone said.

He asked the conference delegates whether the Labour Party could stay in power on the council if that was the consequence of the judgment. He promised not to avoid a fight.

Chief officers at County Hall believe that the reason for the delay in the Lords giving judgment is that they have been working out the practical consequences of forcing the GLC to reverse its decision on the subsidy.

One possible outcome is that the supplementary rate levied by the GLC to pay for the fare reductions will be declared illegal. However, the GLC could raise its fares to the pre-October level, impose a new supplementary rate and then cut fares again.

The Inner London Education Authority faces financial difficulties because October's supplementary rate also contained a £30m levy for the authorities. It has so far received only £6.1m and unless the supplementary rate is paid soon, payments to schools and teachers may be in danger.

The GLC itself had received only £15m out of £120m when Lord Deming ruled the supplementary rate to be illegal. If the Lords overturn the decision London boroughs will have to pay millions of pounds to the GLC immediately, plus a substantial interest penalty. Ratepayers would have to pay the whole levy by March 31.

London Transport's top executives are to receive pay rises of 7.5 per cent. The GLC will be asked tomorrow to approve rises that give Sir Peter Massfield, the chairman, £36,550 a year back-dated to April 1.

# Embassy criticized over Paisley

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Mr David Burnside, an Organizer of a visit by "loyalist" politicians from Northern Ireland to the United States, yesterday criticized staff at the British Embassy in Washington and the Foreign Office in London for a "total lack of support" in helping with the arrangements.

As opposition to the two-week visit continued to grow in the United States, Mr Burnside said he expected the full backing of the British Government. More Daily Co-Congressmen have written to try to letta be President Reagan a visa given to the Paisley.

Mr Paisley, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, visited the "Operation Dismal" campaign. He will be visiting the Unionist Party point of view to meetings in 20 cities across America and on television.

Mr Peter Robinson, his deputy Mr John Taylor and Mrs Nora Bradford representing the Official Unionists, are going too. Mrs Bradford is taking the place of her husband, the Rev Robert Bradford, who was murdered last month.

Mr Burnside said the campaign's spokesman, said: "Opposition to this visit is growing in America and we feel that whatever our differences with the British Government, we deserve the support of the embassy and Foreign Office. There has been a total lack of support so far."

He expected the embassy and Foreign Office to fight any attempt to stop Mr Paisley's visa. The Americans had invited spokesmen from the Republican cause and it is right that Unionists should be allowed to put their point of view, he said.

"The opposition growing in America is disgraceful and we expect support, as this is primarily a visit of British parliamentarians."

In Belfast today Lord Gowrie, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, is expected to have talks on the demands made during a 32-hour protest of loyalist prisoners held on remand in Crumlin Road jail, Belfast. The protest, in which four prison officers were held hostage but not injured, ended at 1.0 am on Saturday and later that day about 200 prisoners in A-wing were moved to other parts of the prison.

This morning Mr Peter Robinson, Democratic Unionist MP for Belfast East, and Mr John McQuade, Democratic Unionist MP for Belfast, North, accompanied by

Mr John Carson, a former Lord Mayor of Belfast, will visit the prison.

The prisoners are demanding segregation from republicans, a return to prison procedures in existence before 1976 and assurances about rights. They also want a report by a team from the International Red Cross on conditions in prisons in the province to be published. It was drawn up last summer after a fact-finding mission by three members of the IRC, and the Government has promised that it would be made public.

Next Monday Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is to hold a one-day seminar at Stormont on the economy of Northern Ireland. Invitations have been sent to the province's MPs and Euro-MPs, except for Mr Owen Carron, Independent Republican MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone. However, the Official Unionists have refused to attend and the indications are that Mr Prior will not be going either.

Mr Prior made clear when he took over as Secretary of State that the province's grave economic problems were of paramount concern to him, and he is looking for an open exchange of views at the meeting.



Two of the dead: Mr Paul Cousins and Nicholas McManus, aged 12. The victim's Christmas toys given away

The toys and Christmas presents of a schoolboy killed in last Friday's train crash at Seer Green, Buckinghamshire, were taken to a special toy service at his local church yesterday.

The parents of Andrew Russell decided to give the presents he would have received to the service so that they will be distributed to children in Tower Hamlets, London.

The boy, aged 12, died with his best friend, Nicholas McManus, also aged 12, as they sat in the front carriage of a train taking them to the Royal Grammar School, in High Wycombe. The train ran into a stationary one.

Mrs Mary Russell, the boy's mother, of Layters Way, Gerrards Cross, said: "He was a very loving, willing, helpful boy and because he had helped us a lot recently we had bought him a radio-controlled car for Christmas."

"Andrew chose it himself, but now I do not know what we will do with it. I have given all his other little presents and stocking fillers to our local church."

On Saturday Mrs Russell and Nicho-

las McManus' mother comforted each other in their grief. Mrs Russell said: "It is a terrible loss. We have both lost our eldest sons. But when you come from a Christian family you know that Andrew is in a far happier place than we are now."

Mr Jeffrey McManus of Bulstrode Way, Gerrards Cross, said Christmas presents that had been bought for his son, Nicholas, would now be given to his other son, Robert, aged nine.

The two other people who died in the crash were Mr Paul Cousins, aged 17, of Broom Close, Oxford Road, Tooting End, near Gerrards Cross, and Mr Thomas Shaw, aged 32, of Harlesden, London, who was driving the passenger train. He was married with two children.

British Rail held an internal inquiry into the accident on Saturday, but it said later it did not reach any conclusion, as some witnesses were not available. The inquiry will be resumed today but the findings will not be made public. It is expected that a full public inquiry will be held later.

# A question over railways' future Electrification threatened by track record

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

British Rail is having great difficulty making a case for electrification under the conditions laid down by the Government last June.

Of the routes recommended for electrification in the joint BR/Dept of Transport report in February, only one, the east coast main line from King's Cross to York and Newcastle upon Tyne, has shown the required profit.

The next four in priority are the Midlands main line to Nottingham, Derby and Sheffield; the western main line to Bristol and South Wales; the West of England line to Exeter and Plymouth; and the North-east to South-west line from Newcastle to Birmingham and Cardiff.

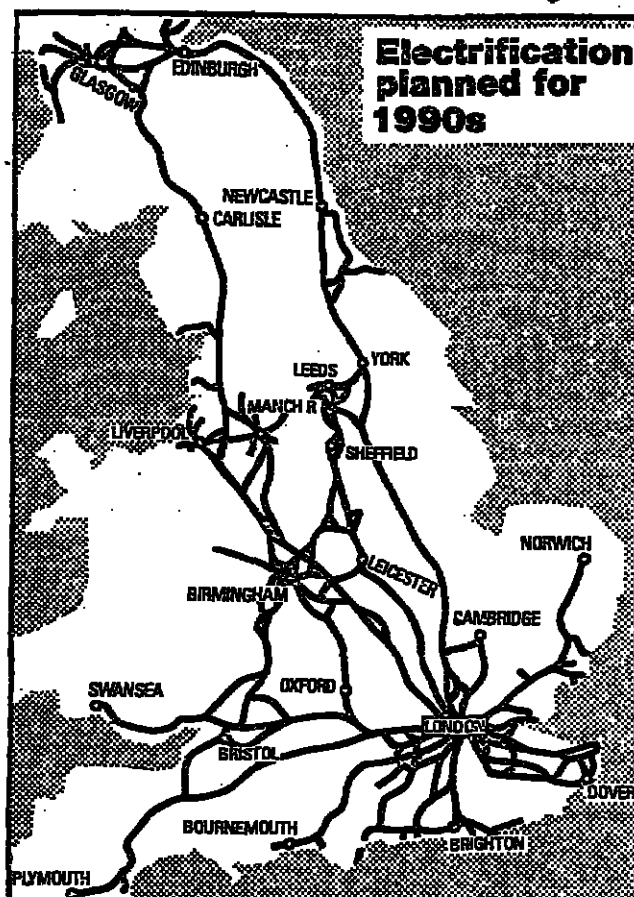
British Rail is making a desperate effort to improve its business forecast for those routes by increasing revenue, productivity and efficiency, in order to leave them into profit.

The most striking fact to emerge from the present exercise is that it is not about electrification at all. It is about the future of the railway itself.

The big question raised by Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet hawks, when February's joint report went omnibusly quiet in the spring, was not whether electrification merited investment but whether the railway did.

Everyone, including Professor Alan Walters, the Prime Minister's economic adviser, apparently accepts that if Britain's trunk routes are worth investment, they are worth electrifying. But the performance of the "commercial railway" — inter-city, passenger and freight — has been deteriorating since 1978 and shows no sign of earning the profit to which both BR and the Government became committed in the mid-1970's.

As one senior railway manager put it, "The February review was conducted on the basis of an ongoing railway, and the question was whether there is a case for electric rather than diesel traction. The answer to which BR and the



Option 3: The lines BR wants to electrify under the 10-year programme.

Department of Transport subscribe was clearly "yes".

Electrification yielded an 11 per cent return over diesel on the traffic forecast used. But under Walters the conditions were changed. The argument ceased to be about electric versus diesel and became about the ongoing railway.

Mr Norman Fowler, then Minister of Transport, announced on June 22 that he was "inviting BR to prepare and submit a 10-year programme of schemes for electrification only of those potentially profitable main line routes where it is clear that the benefits would justify the investment".

The approval of each successive electrification

which points out that the February report called for improved financial performance by the commercial railway and productivity gains.

The department says that Mr Fowler's statement contained a commitment to a 10-year rolling programme of electrification, provided the conditions were met. That put it in a similar position to roads, which are also built on a rolling programme, but where individual schemes are brought forward only if they show an adequate return.

The 10-year programme is much smaller than the 20-year programme advocated in February. British Rail is now trying to make a case for something more like option 3 of that report (shown in the accompanying map) rather than the largest option, originally recommended.

The third option is for a 4,600-mile network instead of 5,800, and excludes from electrification such extremes as Penzance, Holyhead, Aberdeen and Hull.

The targets for productivity and profitability are those set by the BR board, the department says. But the board, caught in an unforeseen recession, knows it is not meeting those targets and argues that the railway's long-term future should not be judged by a short-term position. The targets should be changed, or the programme proceeded with anyway.

Mr Fowler said in June that the Government had made its commitment, and wanted a matching commitment from BR in the form of improved profitability and productivity.

Some railway leaders accept that. "We do not quarrel with attempts to make us more efficient managers", one said. "We know there are big savings to be made both in the operation of services and the infrastructure and overheads."

"The results of freight and Inter-City are disappointing. It looks like taking longer than we thought to hit the target. They have every right to be suspicious of railway forecasts."

# Outcry over developers' plans for two sites

By Hugh Clayton

Environment Correspondent

Conservationists are making final efforts to stop construction projects which they say will destroy the character of two widely separated historic sites, the hidden courtyard of Wardrobe Place, in the City of London, and grounds at Highclere Park, Hampshire, which were landscaped by Capability Brown.

The conservationists are angry about the Government's refusal to hold a public inquiry into plans to rebuild part of Wardrobe Place and to route a dual carriageway through the park. They say that the new road could be kept clear of the park at little cost.

Wardrobe Place, a small courtyard in the City of London, is a Grade II listed building. It was built in the 17th century and is one of the few remaining examples of the work of the 17th-century architect Christopher Wren. The plan to rebuild part of the courtyard would involve the demolition of several buildings and the construction of a new road.

Highclere Park, a large estate in Hampshire, was landscaped by the famous 18th-century landscape architect Capability Brown. The plan to route a dual carriageway through the park would involve the construction of a new road and the demolition of several buildings.

Conservationists are arguing that the proposed developments would destroy the character of both sites and that the Government should hold a public inquiry into the plans.

# Toxteth plan threatened

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, is to meet Toxteth community leaders tonight to discuss his proposals for a new police station in the Merseyside Community Relations Council.

He will present his plans to defuse tension in the riot-scarred area which were supported earlier this month by the county's police authority. But already the meeting, to be chaired by Mgr Derek Worlock, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, has become shrouded in controversy.

The Liverpool 8 Defence Committee, the main group representing blacks in Toxteth, have boycotted any discussions with Mr Oxford. They are likely to be joined in their protest by officials of the Merseyside Community Relations Council.

After the summer riots Mr Oxford organized a similar meeting of community leaders. That too was boycotted by the committee.

The setting up of a consultative committee to improve relations between the police and the community in Moss Side, Manchester has been recommended by a conference called to draw up a plan for the area.

# Prison education plea

By Our Political Staff

A Conservative MP today will urge an all-party inquiry into prison education, suggesting that it be placed on a statutory basis.

Mr Harry Greenway, the member for Ealing, North, is to tell the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts, which will be meeting to consider its future programme of work, that prisoners should make more positive use of their time in custody and that at present, only 3 per cent of money spent on prisons goes towards education.

He will suggest that prisoners should statutorily be enabled to attempt to prove themselves academically suitable for particular courses.

Mr Greenway said yesterday that he would make the education an alternative to work in prisons.

"There is a fairly explosive situation in our prisons with such high numbers," he said. "We have to take positive measures to occupy them to promote a positive atmosphere."

Mr Greenway introduced a Bill in the last session of Parliament to provide for the aims he has in mind and he hopes to introduce a similar one in this session.

# HIGH FEAST

More than thirty officers and cadets from the Berwick Air Training Corps celebrated Christmas early yesterday, at the top of the Cheviot, altitude 2,076 feet, in north Northumberland. They walked to the top and had a traditional Christmas lunch, including chicken, Christmas pudding and mince pies.

# Maplin site plea may be dropped

By Our Environmental Correspondent

The Town and Country Planning Association may drop its planning application to the London's third airport at Maplin, Essex, this week. The validity of the application is being considered by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr David Hall, director of the association, said that it was reassured by a pledge from Mr Graham Eyre, QC, that evidence in favour of Maplin by objectors to expansion of the airport at Stansted, Essex, be considered even if Mr Heseltine ruled against the application.

Mr Eyre is the independent inspector appointed by ministers to conduct the third airport inquiry, which enters its twelfth week tomorrow. He said that if he considered the Maplin application frivolous he would make "robust representations".

Mr Heseltine to award costs against the association.

If we felt there was some real danger of costs being awarded against us we would be in some difficulty," Mr Hall said. The association's financial report for last year, published less than a fortnight ago, spoke of "a very difficult cash flow position" which was especially acute during the latter part of the year.

Mr Eyre has been told by Rochford District Council, whose area includes Maplin, that the application is too vague to be considered seriously, but the inspector said that all questions of validity must be decided by Mr Heseltine.

Mr Hall said: "The prime consideration for us is the extent to which we can ensure that the Maplin alternative is considered. The statement made by the inspector removes one stumbling block."

"We think we have a very strong case for rejecting the view that we have behaved frivolously. We are tying the flag of the community at large."

The association intended to submit all its evidence about Maplin to the inquiry by the end of the year irrespective of how Mr Heseltine ruled on the application.

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## Libyans set out to disprove Reagan charges

Tripoli, Dec 13. — Libya is mounting a big campaign to disprove President Reagan's allegation that Americans living and working here are in imminent danger.

The authorities yesterday invited a group of senior executives of American companies to a reception in Tripoli so they could tell Western journalists what they thought of the President's request that they should leave the country.

The 20 businessmen declined to be quoted directly but they were in general agreement that the Reagan Administration had overestimated the alleged threat posed by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader. Some with wives and children in Libya said they had no fears for the safety of their families.

Despite President Reagan's call last Thursday that Americans should leave Libya and his decision to cancel passports for travel to this country, some were flying into Tripoli yesterday.

They were more outspoken than their employers about Mr. Reagan's decision. "I think it stinks," Mr. Russ Duclos, aged 30, an oilrigger from Bakersfield, California, said. He said a job in Libya meant high wages working in the oil fields and he did not know whether he would find as good a job elsewhere.

Mr. Wendell Davis, aged 47, an oilfield worker from Bolinger, Texas, who has spent the past five years in Libya, said he was flying back to Tripoli to tell his notice. He said he felt obliged to abide by Mr. Reagan's call to leave but added: "I am also bound to give 30 days notice to my Libyan employers."

As part of their efforts to counter the American allegations the Libyan authorities have invited Western journalists to a press conference which Colonel Gaddafi may decide to hold in the coming days.

Libyan officials were eager to prove that Americans are

generally happy working in Libya and have little desire to leave. Mr. Omar Mustafa Montasser, the Heavy Industries Secretary, told Reuters last night: "They (American Businessmen) told me they do not want to leave but they are worried what action might be taken against them in the United States if they refuse."

He dismissed allegations by the Reagan Administration that Colonel Gaddafi had dispatched assassination squads to kill the President. "Who had tried to kill him last time and who killed Kennedy?" he said. "Their own papers on the other hand report plans that they intended to kill Colonel Gaddafi and that they planned to kill Fidel Castro by using the Mafia."

The American oil companies which operate here in partnership with Libya have announced they will abide by the call to withdraw their American staff, but it appeared likely they would remain in operation. Mr. Montasser said the firms would probably choose to replace outgoing Americans with other expatriates.

No other Western country has joined the United States action against Libya. Britain has said it does not see any threat to its 6,000 citizens here and France announced last week it will restore full relations with Libya, which is no longer considered a terrorist state.

President Reagan alleges that Colonel Gaddafi supports international terrorism and threatens American interests in the Middle East.

An indication of the West European attitude is the steady arrival of schoolchildren to spend the Christmas holidays with their parents here. Mrs. Pat Parr, a British housewife from Reston, Cheshire, arriving with her young daughter to spend the holidays "with her husband said: "I do not know what the fuss is about. I think Reagan is crazy." — Reuters.

## Pope sends scientists to ward off atom war

From Our Correspondent Rome, Dec 13

The Pope is this week sending scientists to the four big powers and to the United Nations to warn them of the risk of destroying humanity in a nuclear war.

The mission to London, it is stated in the Vatican which consists of five scientists, including Professor Carlos Chagas, the Brazilian President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, and a Nobel Prize winner, Max Perutz.

The mission will take a report by a working group of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, which was set up in 1979 to study the effects of nuclear bombardments. The study group, according to a statement, investigated "the forecasts of total destruction which would become a deplorable reality in the event of employment of such types of nuclear armaments."

With the missions, the Pope is engaged on a more detailed and direct initiative in favour of peace than ever undertaken by his predecessors. It follows another recent initiative, the dispatch of personal letters to President Reagan and President Brezhnev on the eve of the Geneva missile negotiations.

Addressing pilgrims in St Peter's Square today, the Pope said it was "in the spirit of profound preoccupation before the terrifying hypothesis of an atomic war" that he had asked the governments of the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France as well as the President of the United Nations General Assembly to receive the delegations.

They would illustrate the scientific document on the consequences of nuclear war drawn up by members of the Pontifical Academy, together with other eminent scientists. "I am profoundly convinced that, in the face of the effects predicted by science as certain in a nuclear war the only choice, morally and humanely valid, is represented by the reduction of nuclear armaments."

## The Polish crisis: Who is in charge and their major economic challenge

# How Army has filled vacuum left by party

By Richard Owen

The assumption of power by a Military Council in Poland has created a new, hybrid form of government without parallel in post-war Eastern Europe. Martial law was introduced by the Hungarian authorities in 1956, but the political structure of Hungary was not affected.

In Poland, by contrast, the armed forces in effect have taken the reins of power into their hands, leaving the machinery of the communist state intact but without a defined role, and it is as yet far from clear how the resulting system will work.

In any other context the developments in Poland would be classed as a military coup, and the actions of General Jaruzelski and senior military colleagues certainly have all the hallmarks of a military takeover in the classic manner.

The council's declaration that it will honour the "political and defence alliances" and "agreements and obligations" entered into by its predecessors is precisely the kind of language used by military commanders elsewhere in the world when they wish to emphasise national continuity.

The insistence on the "temporary" nature of the takeover until the situation becomes normalised also reflects the language of generals stepping in to salvage a desperate situation, and the introduction of restrictions on citizens' freedoms—including a dusk to dawn curfew—would also seem familiar to those outside Eastern Europe who have woken up to find the armed forces in charge.

General Jaruzelski himself has less than 10 years to go before he is due to retire, and his military coup gives Polish life already becoming increasingly "militarized" over the past year, so that the declaration of martial law is a logical extension of what has gone before, rather than a totally unexpected departure.

General Jaruzelski himself embodies the curious nature of the system which has evolved. As First Secretary of the Communist Party, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and head of the armed forces, he for some time has combined legislative and administrative functions which in any state, including Communist ones, are normally separated.

The principle which has hitherto prevailed in Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union, is that the military, power is subordinate to the civil power, and any attempt by representatives of the armed forces to gain undue influence has been rebuffed by the party. But during the Polish crisis the Army has come to the fore, filling the vacuum left by the communist authorities.

Poles have become used to the sight of joint Army and police patrols on the streets, and to operational military groups ferreting out corruption and administrative incompetence in backward provincial areas.

Generals have assumed key ministerial positions in areas such as the mining industry, and some of the best accounts have displayed ill-concealed exasperation with the foot-dragging nature of the Polish bureaucracy.

Increasingly impatient both with an obstructionist state apparatus and with Solidarity, General Jaruzelski has reached for the last weapon in his armoury: the subjection of the whole of Polish society to military rule and discipline. The proclamation of a state of emergency—or, a state of emergency—(stan wojenny) in the alarming-sounding Polish—is provided for by a law of November 21, 1967, in circumstances where there is judged to be a "direct threat to the security of the state."

In addition, General Jaruzelski appears to have invoked Article 33 of the Polish constitution in an amended version introduced by the new military authorities.

The powers granted to the "Military Council of National Salvation" by these provisions are drastic, including the banning of trade union activity, strict censorship of mail and telecommunications, and the closure of Poland's borders.

It is possible that General Jaruzelski would have preferred to invoke the constitution's "emergency regulations" but in the current climate he might well have been obstructed by the re-juvenated Sejm (Parliament), and so has used the statutory instruments most readily available.

These include blanket powers of arrest in the case of Polish citizens whose "behaviour in the past" gives rise to "justified suspicion" that they might, "if left free," infringe the legal order or threaten the interests and security of the state.

Apart from such wide-ranging provisions for internment "for the duration of martial law", adult Poles, including of course members of Solidarity, may be liable for conscription, either into military service or into civil defence bodies.

What has yet to emerge is exactly how the armed forces will be used to maintain public order, especially if the emergency regulations are resisted, or if Solidarity's call for a general strike is heeded. Since the bloody riots of December, 1970, on the Baltic coast, it has been popularly assumed that regular troops would never be used against the Polish people.

The two organizations therefore thought most likely to be willing to perform the odious tasks associated with controlling disturbances, should they occur, are the riot police, and the security police, or SB.

The question is how long a military regime of this kind will last, and later it will co-exist with the institutions of the communist state. The Military Council has "emphasized" that its existence does not affect the "powers of any organ of the peoples' authority", and the old bodies of the Communist Party and the Central Committee presumably continue to exercise supreme power in a formal sense.

On the other hand, the council has taken over on the grounds that the normal functioning of administrative and economic bodies has become impossible, and has said it will itself exercise power through "departmental, provincial, municipal and parish plenipotentiaries."

## THE ARRESTS



ARRESTED: Tadeusz Wrzesniewski, former Politburo member; Edward Giersek, former party leader; Jan Szydlak, former member of the Politburo, and Piotr Jaroszewicz, the former Prime Minister.

## Ex-Prime Minister among those held

By Our Foreign Staff

The state of siege declared in Poland yesterday has led to a round-up of political and trade union figures detained under the martial law regulations. All the Solidarity union federation leaders meeting in Gdansk were included, with the exception of Mr. Lech Walesa, the union's leader. He was said to have travelled to Warsaw for talks with the Government.

Well informed sources said about 1,000 people were detained in the first swoops, though only a few names were immediately known. Apart from Solidarity members, dozens of former Government figures were included. Demands that people high up in the previous regime of Mr. Edward Giersek should be punished were widespread in Poland, and not only from Solidarity.

Six former Politburo members of the Giersek regime are known to have been detained. They are: Edward Giersek, the former Party leader, who was removed from the leadership in September last year. He had since retired to Katowice. Several inquiries were made, one of them about how he acquired his degree in mining engineering, and his large house. He

was expelled from the party in 1970, and later he was named as a member of the Politburo. He lost the premiership in February, 1980, and his name was linked with many allegations of corruption and embezzlement. Jerzy Lukaszewicz, a former member of the Politburo, in charge of ideology, including press and radio, who was expelled at the same time as Mr. Giersek.

Jan Szydlak, a former member of the Politburo, an attorney, and one of the officials in the trade union. He was in charge of investigations into the 1970 riots in Gdansk.

Tadeusz Wrzesniewski, one of the secretaries of the Central Committee. He was in charge of Party foreign relations. He had survived longer than the others, and was only dropped at the Party congress in July. He enjoyed special Soviet confidence.

Zdzislaw Grudzien, the former party chief in Silesia, who became very unpopular with the coal miners of the region.

These six arrests are clearly intended to enhance General Jaruzelski's credibility. He has previously said that no one would be protected in escape from the shops.



## The ailing economy

# Billions of debt and only Eastern block to help now

From Peter Norman, Brussels, Dec 13

The declaration of a state of emergency in Poland has placed the responsibility for curing the country of its economic crisis firmly on the Soviet Union and its partners behind the Iron Curtain.

Western Governments which have consistently refused in recent months to guarantee new credits to the Poles, will feel that their prudence has been justified. Western banks, which have been anxiously waiting to see whether the Warsaw authorities would be able to pay around \$500m (£250m) in interest and principal by the end of 1981 as part of an agreement rescheduling debts of \$2,400m due this year will, if anything, be more confident of seeing their money again after the weekend's events.

But the move against Solidarity and the imposition of rule by a military council means that a relatively painless Western-style solution to Poland's economic problems is now virtually inconceivable. As Poland's domestic economy has lurched from bad to worse over the past year, the economic planners in Warsaw have become increasingly willing to share their secrets with Poland's creditors in the West.

But if the exercise was intended to create a basis of confidence on which Poland would be able to borrow funds to put its economic house in order, it has failed.

The more Western creditors have got to know about the situation in Poland, the less they have liked it. The West German Government is perhaps an extreme case of enthusiasm giving way to disenchantment. German attitudes have proved to be a crucially important barometer as West Germany is Poland's largest creditor in the West, and in 1980 advanced to him the second most important trading partner after the Soviet Union.

In less than two years, the West German Government has been pressing Poland to reduce its country's gross financing requirement up to 1990 was estimated at \$85,000m.

To expect an inflow of funds on this scale was perhaps unrealistic. But a successful rescheduling of Poland's 1981 debt could have created the



Angry women: A "hunger march" in Lodz last August

In the eyes of many officials in Bonn the Poles have evolved from being a sympathetic people deserving the support of democrats in the West to a factor threatening the solidity of the federal budget.

The change in attitude became apparent in the summer as officials in Bonn realized that they would have to start rescheduling its \$2,000m budget to offset the cost of the April agreement rescheduling the official part of Polish debt falling due this year.

From that point onwards, complaints in Bonn about the inefficiency of the Poles have grown more frequent just as a willingness to consider providing the country with new credit has diminished.

Yet when Poland finally realized that it would have to start rescheduling its debt in the spring of this year, the Warsaw Government's strategy for putting its own house in order presupposed that money from the West would be forthcoming.

At that time some Western bankers estimated that Poland would need \$10,000m of new money in 1981 alone while the country's gross financing requirement up to 1990 was estimated at \$85,000m.

To expect an inflow of funds on this scale was perhaps unrealistic. But a successful rescheduling of Poland's 1981 debt could have created the

conditions for a healthy trickle of finance from the West while waiting for cash from the International Monetary Fund in perhaps two years' time.

The state of emergency must put this prospect in doubt as banks and governments will be only too happy to use the turn of events as a pretext for not supplying more funds while still pressing for an orderly rescheduling of debts falling due in 1982 and beyond.

This attitude will probably be reinforced because of a relative decline in Poland's importance for the Western economies since the economic crisis began in that country.

□ New York: A hardening of attitude among American bankers is expected as a result of martial law being declared in Poland over the weekend (Frank Lipsius writes).

Though Poland has just paid \$500m in interest payments as part of its negotiated debt rescheduling, further deterioration in the political climate as a result of the call for a general strike may well lead bankers to find a way to have the Polish debt called in default.

Rescheduling of \$2,500m of Polish debt is still to be fully negotiated, leaving an opening for bankers to declare a default or write off Polish loans, either of which will effectively cut off Polish sources of financing outside the Soviet Union.

## Shortages and stoicism

By Desha Trevisan

The Poles have little to lose in material terms; their day-to-day life is one long struggle to keep body and soul together. They are still showing extraordinary patience, and seem prepared to go without most things people in the West take for granted, for the sake of the ideals of August, 1980.

Civic freedoms to them seem to matter more than bread, and in this respect they appear to differ from the consumer-conscious inhabitants of western Europe and their eastern neighbours like the Czechs and the East Germans.

After 1968 the Russians placated the Czechs and Slovaks by making more goods available to them. In Poland over this past year the situation in that respect got worse rather than better, as shortages piled up and items after items disappeared almost daily from the shops.

These ranged from the chronic food scarcities to the latest shortages of textiles, winter coats and boots, and even of salt and vinegar, the one product which with tea and recently conspicuously available.

The queues in front of food shops have been normal for many years. But queues in front of furniture shops are new as people, in order to get rid of money, are buying everything which they need it or not.

The food supply has not improved despite the promise held out when the authorities recognized the peasants' independent Rural Solidarity union. The peasants were unable to supply more because industry lacked the necessary raw materials to supply them with farming essentials. Thus one shortage leads to another in a spiral which makes all talk about economic reform seem like academic speculation.

In Poland money has no value. This may be true of many countries in the throes of inflation, but in Poland the term simply does not seem adequate. To get the essentials of life the Poles have to have either goods to exchange or hard currency, the rate of which has now risen by more than 20 times.

The nation is thus divided into those who have either goods or hard currency to exchange for goods and those who have not. Those who have not are feeling hardships which Poles who remember the war say are worse than they faced in the 1940s.

The black market thrives despite General Jaruzelski's war on the profiteers and frequent raids by special military police units on the shops and markets where goods abound at a price.

## ROW OVER REAGAN'S WAR CARD

From Nicholas Ashford Washington, Dec 13

The code card which President Reagan carries with him to authenticate nuclear strike orders in the event of a military emergency was taken from him by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) after the assassination attempt on the President last March, causing some confusion over exactly who had control over America's nuclear weapons while the President was undergoing surgery.

According to a front-page report in the Washington Post, the loss of the card, which was taken as part of the evidence gathering after the shooting, led to a serious dispute over its possession between the FBI and the President's military aides.

The card is the only device carried by the President to authenticate his nuclear command. It contains a series of coded numbers and words with which he can identify himself to military officials in the war room at the Pentagon.

The card was designed for use in emergencies when the President might be without secure voice communication. The code and verification system is considered crucial to national security, as there would only be a few minutes to make nuclear decisions in a crisis.

The White House has refused to comment on the report except to say that at no time during the events of March 30 was the national security of the United States impaired. However, officials concede that although there was no loss of control over nuclear weapons after the assassination attempt, the incident does raise questions about how well the emergency system might have operated in a crisis.

In a military emergency, the code card would be used by the President in a conference call to Mr. Caspar Weinberger, the Secretary for Defence, the joint chiefs of staff and the Pentagon war room.

In the event of the incapacitation of the President, the authority to launch nuclear weapons passes through a chain of command that runs from the vice-President through the Defence Secretary to the joint chiefs of staff. Each of these officials carries his own card.

## Caribbean HQ

Castries, St. Lucia.—The new organization of Eastern Caribbean States has voted to station its headquarters in St. Lucia and to admit the British dependencies of St. Kitts and Montserrat as members.

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The Polish crisis 2: How the world is reacting — and the confrontations that led to the showdown

# Fingers crossed at Nato that Russians stay out

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Dec 13

The first stage of a Nato precautionary plan to deal with a Polish crisis was set in motion here today by De Joseph Luns, the alliance's Secretary-General. He began a series of consultations with the permanent national representatives at Nato, to study the consequences of a sudden invasion of Poland, and to prepare the way for a meeting tomorrow to work out an appropriate response.

For the moment, the Nato view is that events in Poland are self-contained, and there is no obvious intention by the Soviet Union. This is the determining factor in the prepared Nato response, which was worked out over a year ago, after the initial crisis in Poland.

Exact details of that response are a closely guarded secret, but it is certain that Nato would not counter any Soviet military intervention with a military build-up of its own.

What is more likely in the event of Soviet tanks invading Poland is sustained diplomatic pressure to discredit the Kremlin in the eyes of the rest of the world. The United States, for its part, would probably try to enforce comprehensive economic sanctions.

For the moment, however, the Nato tactic is to wait and see. Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, has decided to do the same. He has postponed for 24 hours his

plans for a six-day trip to Turkey, Israel, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan and India, and is remaining in Brussels to keep in close touch with developments through the American embassy in Warsaw.

He is also close to Nato headquarters, and could be available if a sudden ministerial meeting were required. Mr Haig said today that the United States "saw no signs" that the Soviet Union might be about to invade Poland, but he added that it was too early to tell what would happen. "We are watching it very closely," he said. "We are consulting with our concerned allies here on the Continent, and we will continue to watch the situation."

Tomorrow's regular meeting of the Nato permanent representatives will be backed up this time by political directors. They will assess the situation, and hope that by then the confused stories coming from Poland will have become clearer, so that an adequate response can be approved. Mr Haig might attend this meeting.

The Council of Foreign Ministers of the European Community, which opens in London in the evening, will also review the situation in Poland. It is expected that the Council will discuss EEC reforms. Nato foreign ministers said a year ago that they would come to Brussels to plan their reac-

tions to a Polish crisis should the situation warrant it.

At that time Warsaw Pact troop manoeuvres near the Polish borders seemed so threatening that Nato cancelled all Christmas leave, and put the multinational naval force on the alert. This time no such steps have been taken, and Nato operational headquarters has simply been advised to listen to the news.

Radio Free Europe, the American station which claims that its Polish language service has a 70 per cent audience among adults in Poland, increased its output from 19 to 24 hours a day when news of the Polish crisis became known. Since then all its news and current affairs output has been systematically jammed. In contrast to a year ago, when the station broadcast without any problems.

The European Commission will also be studying developments closely, to see if it is still advisable to complete a food and industrial aid programme requested by Poland. This was expected to be ready before the end of the year, but it is now unlikely to be finished before the situation becomes clearer.

An 8,000-tonne Christmas gift of beef from the Community to Poland is, however, probably still going to be sent, although it could now be delayed.

## Walesa's oratory focused protests

By Richard Davy and Dessa Trevisan

The origins of the Polish crisis can be traced as far back into Polish history as one wants, but the present phase developed in the second half of the 1970s, when the mistakes of Mr Giermek's regime started coming home to roost.

The crucial date is 1976, when strikes were put down by force. The result was to bring workers and intellectuals together in groups devoted to organizing pressure on the regime.

Ideas and information were exchanged through a flourishing unofficial press, so that when the strikes broke out in the Baltic ports in the summer of 1980 there was a network of contacts across the nation and widespread consensus on tactics.

Instead of taking to the streets and burning party buildings, or stripping party officials to their underpants, as happened on previous occasions, the workers stayed within the factory or shipyard gates and organized themselves for negotiation.

The initial cause of the strike at Gdansk was the dismissal of Anna Walentynowicz, a worker for 30 years who had been involved in opposition activity, but a mass of pent up grievances accumulated



The face, the moustache, the pipe: Lech Walesa with the press in Paris.

around this issue, and the strike spread.

It was at this early stage that an almost unknown, unemployed electrician named Lech Walesa climbed into shipyard and seized the confidence of the workers with his oratory.

By the end of August, 1980, to the astonishment of many concerned, the strike committee in Gdansk had negotiated and signed an agreement with the Government on a series of points including the setting up of an independent trade union, which then emerged as Solidarity, to be followed after more confrontations by Rural Solidarity.

The right to strike was guaranteed, the minimum wage increased, and a series of welfare measures introduced. Hundreds of similar agree-

ments were signed around the country.

Then began the long series of negotiations, confrontations and compromises which occupied the last 16 months. Mutual confidence waned and tempers became frayed as each side accused the other of bad faith.

Solidarity acquired 10 million members and sprouted many different factions, while the Communist Party's three million members became more and more demoralized and began to lift away, especially after the party congress last summer, which failed to achieve the promised reform of the party.

Then throughout last week, verbal warfare reached new heights. Statements by Solidarity leaders and angry government reaction all pointed to

the rift getting ever wider. The chance of negotiations or agreement seemed more remote than at any time since the crisis started.

Each side made public statements to the effect that they were now moving to confrontation. Solidarity accused the authorities of breaking agreements, the Government said the same about Solidarity, accusing its leadership of preparing to take over political power, of undermining economic reforms.

The authorities were clearly preparing the ground for this weekend's events. They did everything to blame the Solidarity leadership and used the mass media to present that picture to the Polish people.

Tapes from a Solidarity meeting in Radom, claimed by the authorities to present incriminating evidence of political

ambitions, were read over the radio three times in 24 hours. Mr Walesa was then quoted as saying: "Confrontation is inevitable." Later, a spokesman for Solidarity, Mr Market Brunne, in a statement claimed that the quotes had been taken out of context.

By the end of last week the Government had completed its massive campaign to prove that the Solidarity leadership was about to take over power. Prior to that, on Monday last, the Politburo had held a meeting on "the current political situation".

No further announcements were made, but most observers believe that the political decision to go ahead with martial law was taken then.

Throughout the week, efforts at conciliation were made as if the authorities still hoped for some last minute change of heart by Mr Walesa. He was the man they regarded as more moderate than some of the other national union leaders.

But Solidarity was in a belligerent mood, and Mr Walesa joined the radicals. Until then, he had never been attacked directly, but now the authorities singled him out for special criticism.

At this point, the Government clearly must have reached the conclusion that there was no hope of reaching a compromise. An announcement after a mid-week government meeting said: "It is hard to foresee the price of the political adventurism the leadership of Solidarity has opted for."

The Government then announced it would seek special parliamentary approval to ban strikes. But it said the emergency measures would apply only for the winter months until March 31.

## Both Germanies will try to find a solution

From Patricia Clough, Berlin, Dec 13

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, discussed the situation in Poland at length with Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, here today, and said they hoped the Poles would settle their conflicts themselves.

West Germany would adhere strictly to the principle of non-interference, Herr Schmidt said, and was convinced Herr Honecker also respected Poland's sovereignty. The talks delayed the Chancellor's schedule by nearly 45 minutes.

The news from Poland reached Herr Schmidt in the early hours of the last day of his three-day visit to East Germany. This visit had already been postponed once because of the situation in Poland and once because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. "Thank God it ended this time," the Chancellor remarked.

Herr Schmidt's senior advisers rejected suggestions that the events in Poland had come as a blow to the Chancellor in the middle of his talks with Herr Honecker. "On the contrary, the possibility to talk about it at length shows that the dialogue is continuing," they said. Both sides would try to use their influence to urge the Poles in the right direction," they said.

In hindsight, it seemed that both sides had at least an inkling that something was going to happen in Poland. Informed sources said the two German leaders spent much of yesterday's meetings discussing the Polish question.

The almost unseemly haste with which the visit was arranged only three weeks after receiving the go-ahead

from President Brezhnev indicated that at least one side feared a fresh East-West freeze which could delay the summit once again in East Europe. Sources here said that something had been expected to happen on or around December 17 when Solidarity was planning a general strike.

Herr Schmidt will almost certainly have pointed out to Herr Honecker—and through him to the whole Communist block—that any invasion of Poland would destroy in a single blow most of what had been achieved for detente and disarmament in Europe.

He has doubtless explained an invasion would harden public opinion in America and Europe, effectively wipe out the peace movement and put paid to the United States-Soviet negotiations in Geneva for reducing medium-range nuclear weapons.

Herr Schmidt may have reminded his host of his warning earlier this year that West German credits would dry up if the new development were put down by force.

The news from Poland over West German radio, quickly spread around East Germany. But the few East Germans contacted by Western correspondents here did not appear unduly perturbed. "We will have to see what happens," one East German remarked.

A woman who worked for the East German television said there was a great interest among intellectuals in the Polish experiment but they had been forbidden to discuss it on pain of their jobs. If Solidarity was crushed "it will show that the time is not yet ripe for anything like that here either."

We confidently predict our whiskey will be received with enthusiasm by relatively few people.

Black Bush is a whiskey of rare distinction. It has an exceptionally full flavour and a smoothness of legendary proportions.

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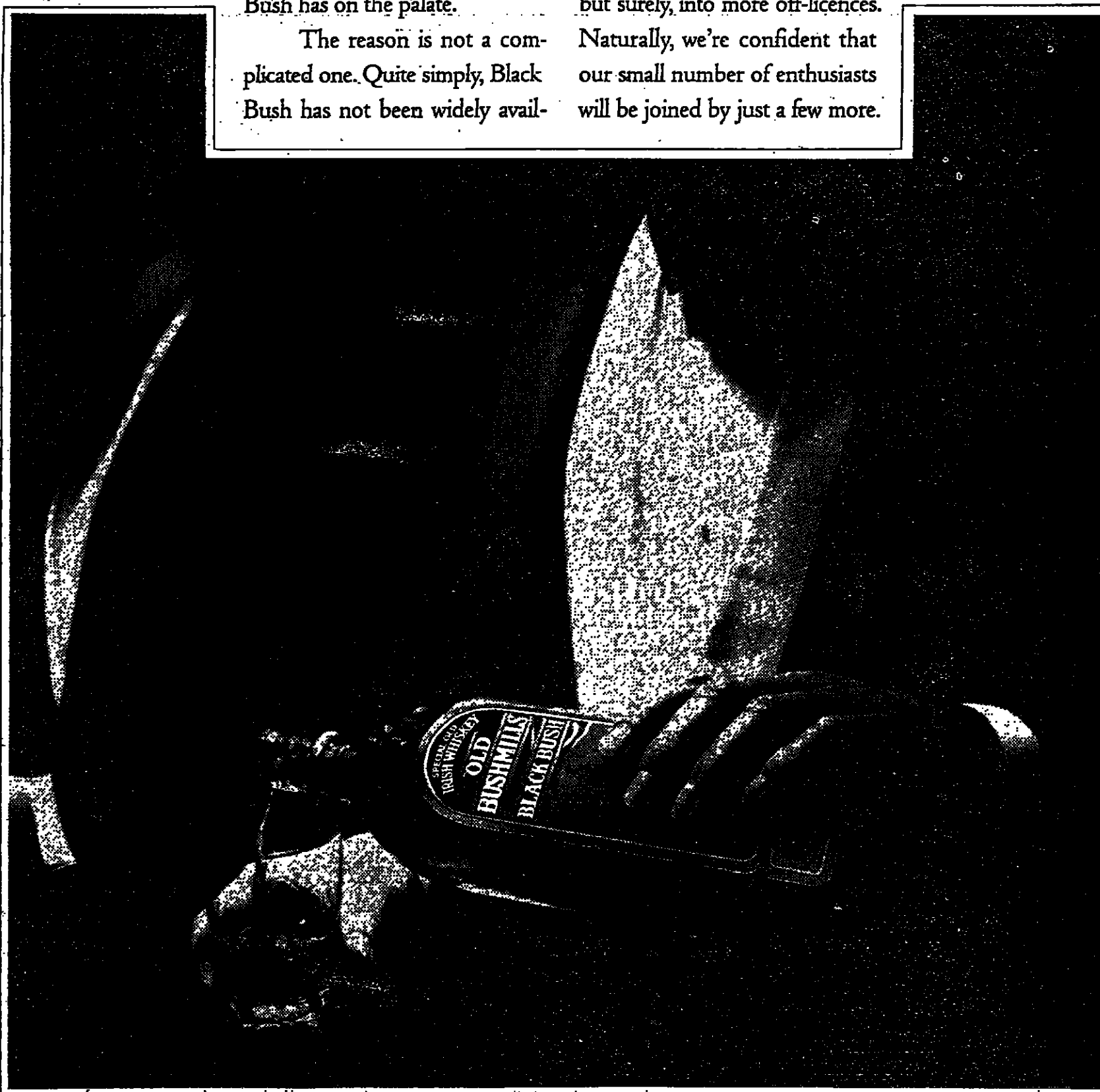
The reason is not a complicated one. Quite simply, Black Bush has not been widely avail-

able. In fact, scarce might be a more appropriate word.

Hardly surprising then, that not everyone is fully aware of its mellow Irish character or its triple distillation process which adds to its special smoothness.

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BLACK BUSH



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## Polish blood must not be shed, Pope says

By Our Foreign Staff

The Pope appealed to his countrymen for a peaceful outcome to the latest Polish move. "No more Polish blood must be shed," he said, after reciting the Angelus at noon with a crowd of about 30,000 assembled in St Peter's Square.

"I recall what I said in September: No more Polish blood must be shed, because enough has already been spilt, particularly in the last war. All efforts must be made to build our homeland in peace," he said, directly addressing groups of Polish pilgrims. In view of the forthcoming 60th jubilee of the Madonna of Czestochowa, I intercede on behalf of Poland and all my fellow countrymen with her who has been given to the nation as its protection.

Brussels: Mr Alexander Haig said here that Poland had told Western diplomats that reforms would continue in Poland despite the government's crackdown on Solidarity.

The American Secretary of State told a press conference that the American Chargé d'Affaires in Warsaw had been assured by a senior Polish Foreign Office official that there would be no return to the pre-August, 1980, situation when the government agreed to accept big reforms under pressure from Solidarity.

Moscow: Moscow radio said that the action in Poland was taken in response to the "anarchy facing the country" and "extremist actions of Solidarity leaders who are trying to take over the country."

The broadcast said that "a decision had been adopted to intern the extremist leaders of Solidarity and also members of illegal anti-socialist organizations." The report was later repeated in the Russian language on Soviet radio.

Tape initially carried a one-sentence announcement from Warsaw shortly after 9 am Moscow time and ran an ex-

panded account of the situation 90 minutes later.

Rome: Leaders of the Italian Communist Party condemned the military take-over in a tough statement that was certain to anger the Kremlin.

The directorate of West Europe's largest and most independent communist party met in emergency session yesterday and repeated its support for Solidarity.

Vienna: About 500 people, mainly Polish refugees, demonstrated outside a Polish church and the Polish embassy. There are officially some 26,000 Polish refugees in Austria who have applied for political asylum and about the same number are thought to be in the country privately.

Development in Poland have touched off a wave of protest. M. Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister said the French Government had no intention of doing anything. What was happening in Poland was an internal affair which must be settled by the Poles themselves.

Brussels: The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (CFTU), the world's largest non-Communist trade union group, condemned the developments in Poland and called for the immediate release of the arrested officials of Solidarity.

Vienna: Czechoslovakia today became the first Soviet block country to welcome Poland's decision to introduce a state of emergency, saying the move demonstrated the effectiveness of the Polish state and party leadership.

Utrecht: A convoy of more than 150 lorries left here for Poland despite the state of siege there, to deliver more than 200,000 Christmas packages of supplies gathered by a private Dutch association.

How Moscow sees it, page 8



# If only Mrs Thatcher could see my mailbag

Once upon a time, Sir William Rees-Mogg on Sir Robin Day's television programme described Lord Matthews' newspaper *The Daily Star* as "disastrously worthless". I work on *The Star* as Fleet Street's only male agony columnist and my problem is how to cope with the never-ending volume of post from readers who think Sir William was talking through his top hat. They not only tell me they like the paper but that they value its every promise.

One of these is a haunting line published each Monday saying I will reply "on the page or by post" to all letters sent to my column. Since I joined the paper exactly a year ago, it is a pure coincidence that the circulation has increased by more than the entire print-run of *The Guardian*. With every additional copy, my potential constituency increases.

Now all agony columnists have two existential nightmares. The first is that no one will write to them. Mine is currently the second — that everyone who can write, will do so, to me, and all at the same time.

I open over 4,000 letters a month from the *Star* and from my LBC Radio phone-in programme, compered by Mike Dickson. In 12 months, I have dealt with 3,000 letters on unemployment, 2,000 on intercourse without contraception and 1,500 on the poverty trap of single parenthood. In one week, I received 2,314 letters from men seeking treatment for impotence. A week later, I got 2,200 requests for a booklet called "How to Find a Mate".

In the ranks of the national letter-openers, I fall way behind royalty during nuptials but well ahead of many MPs if you discount routine circulars.

Many of my correspondents should be writing to their MPs or the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. I try to give them nerve. Others are bewildered by bureaucracy or even the telephone directory. Some are not literate. I am still proving unhelpful to the Tyneside gentleman who tells me upon reflection that his dilemma is a "deficiency of sodarity". But instead of dissolving his communication as "disastrously worthless", I recognize that both of us must try harder — especially me since I stayed at school until I was 26 while he mined coal.

Agony is not taught in the



Phillip Hodson: letters to an agony uncle

academy. The ideal training ground is clearly a decade or two as Deputy Delphic Oracle to the Department of Health and Social Security. Who else could ultimately do justice to this morning's mixed postbag containing questions about suicide, redundancy, bereavement, battering, inter-racial marriage, mastectomy, incest, the manliness of boys' ballet-dancing and where to find a second-hand trombone in Dundee? I gave all the writers the benefit of my occasional doubts and replied courteously to every single one if only to prescribe eventual self-help.

Some correspondents are cruelly acute. "You're a man, tell me why all men are hopeless", wrote one woman. Others send 59 sheets of family biography prefaced by "This is not going to be a long letter..." and end with: "Is it reasonable for a girl to have a home at 37?" Traditional agonies endure: "Please can you tell me either to leave my husband and try it again with this other man or stay as I am living with a drunk who has beaten me for five years?" But there are increasingly disturbingly explicit sexual difficulties: "My husband and I are in our early 30s, have been married for 6½ years, no children and have made love only three times since we were married,

and not at all over the last two years. What can you do?" First, I can give my time, unlike the average GP who has only two minutes four seconds to hear the story of your marriage breakdown before prescribing valium. But second, as a man, I can try to explain from the inside why love, sex and marriage seem to threaten so many men at a time of the decline of the male-chauvinist empire. In effect, thousands of women write asking why their men oscillate in behaviour between being hectoring bullies and incommunicative mutes. I reply that a sad proportion of males rely on having a "defective" female beside them to bolster their notion of masculinity. The most graphic example was the chap who complained: "My wife is frigid and I want her fixed" only to recoil in horror and secondary impotence when after four weeks of sex therapy she became orgasmic and therefore "difficult".

Yet the problems of sex equality are still of lesser importance when set against the economic crisis in working families. My job is infinitely harder than when I started since Government preoccupation with macro-economic theory has accelerated the process of social upheaval. A swift glance at

my mail shows that unemployment is no galvanic miracle electrifying people's hearts but simply breaks up the morning and look forward to bedtime" is the message I get from too many readers, some of whom no longer care if they wake up at all.

Only a fragment of the population consists of resilient extroverts. The rest often the shyest of teenagers — become apathetic zombies when deprived of hope, money and company. It is folly to blame Mrs Thatcher for all the unemployment in Britain but it may be her fault that those without jobs feel no sense of social purpose behind their sacrifice.

If the Prime Minister saw my postbag, she might read the mood of the country as Paschendale not Dunkirk. Regarding the entente, I predict more stress, alcoholism, battering, divorce and suicide — all of which increase public expenditure — as personal is added to social depression. The problem is my husband and I, two children, plus one grown-up son are living on £62.50 a week — I know you can't help but it is a mercy to have someone to listen to me.

Another army of the night is being born to give poli-

ticians grief (and empty the Exchequer), this time to a host of teenage mums. In 1982, 10,000 girls under the age of 16 in England and Wales will get pregnant by having sex under conditions of strictest ignorance. It breaks my heart to listen to their anguished cries of "But, I thought if you didn't go all the way... But my boyfriend said I could trust him!" Virgin birth and rascals are both all too common in modern Britain.

The Minister of Health says he is prepared to spend public money advertising the advantages of the word "NO". As a contraceptive but is nobly reluctant to campaign for formal sex instruction in British schools and on television where it would count. In the face of wholesale confusion among young people about the facts of life even today ("If I got VD I'd keep quiet and hope it went away" — 18-year-old sixth former), the politicians are merely making a rod for their own backs.

So long as we remain one of the few civilized democracies preferring compulsory religious instruction to compulsory sex education in our secondary schools, these family problems will remain and the agonists will go on picking up the pieces — even in disastrously worthless newspapers.

# Does generosity have to come but once a year?



by Des Wilson

Apart from children and shareholders in stores, the people who most look forward to Christmas are charity fund-raisers, nearly 25 per cent of whose income is raised in just three weeks of the year. Even those people who for the other 43 weeks will brush aside collecting boxes with barely a glance can be counted on for a more charitable response at Christmas. Peace and goodwill to all men? Or is it the purchase of a licence to consume without guilt?

Whatever the motivation, no charity can afford to respond to gifts with cynicism, but some may at times be tempted to add to their thanks the words: "Happy Christmas — but what about Boxing Day?"

The trouble with the "once a year" British approach to charity is that it denies the reality of the problems the charities face, namely that the disadvantaged they exist to help are there all the year round and that to carry out considerable programmes to relieve distress and to help the deprived to help themselves the organizations need regular income and they need to know that it is coming.

The answer may seem simple enough: by all means let's give generously at Christmas but while we're in the giving mood why not also commit ourselves to regular help throughout the year? Unfortunately it is not as simple as that because the same person who gives cheerfully to a charity at Christmas often spends the rest of the year advocating economic and political policies — and adopting social attitudes guaranteed to ensure that the recipients of his or her "once a year" charity will still be there with the collecting box the following year.

I was reminded of this irony when I saw a man in the saloon bar of a local pub reach into his pocket and put 50p into a collecting tin for the mentally handicapped.

Over the past 20 years, as charities have come to feel less and less effective in the face of rising human need, they have attempted to do what the Charity Commissioners say they may not "influence, pressure or protest", and in particular to "bring pressure on Government to procure a change in policies, practices, administration". Now they are being leaned on by the Commissioners to hold back. This restriction on charities

"carrying" and their public expenditure cuts had already reduced many local authorities' plans to improve facilities for them. If there is to be a change of attitudes it has to begin with greater public admission by charities of their limitations. Charities for the world's hungry and diseased have to make it clear that gifts to them, while welcome, mock the Third World if the donor opposes realistic overseas-aid programmes. Domestic charities for the disabled, the mentally ill and handicapped, the old and the homeless have to make it clear that they can help only a tiny fraction of those still being failed by the welfare state.

To be fair, the charities try, some being far more outspoken than others. But — and this is the crux of the matter — our attitudes to charity are actually built into the laws governing them and every time a charity speaks out about the real cause of its "clients" problem, whether it be inadequate legislation or inadequate public spending, it risks punitive action in terms of either a public reprimand by the Charity Commissioners or at worse a loss of charitable status.

Over the past 20 years, as charities have come to feel less and less effective in the face of rising human need, they have attempted to do what the Charity Commissioners say they may not "influence, pressure or protest", and in particular to "bring pressure on Government to procure a change in policies, practices, administration". Now they are being leaned on by the Commissioners to hold back. This restriction on charities

is wrong for two reasons first, because it stops them from adequately demonstrating their incapacity to meet the needs of those they care about and thus silences what should be an influential voice for a greater priority for those in need; second, because charities and voluntary organizations work on the ground day by day, dealing with disadvantaged, they are the best educated on how existing "policies, practices and administration" are actually working out.

Nearly all of the social services in this country were pioneered by charities and volunteers. They have been a major force behind the creation of the best of the Welfare State for spotlighting greater needs, and for arousing the public conscience. In order to fulfil this role they are now constantly having to challenge the law, if not work outside it. The Charity Commissioners, themselves admittedly also trapped with anachronistic laws, tend to implement them unevenly, coming down with a heavy hand on some and turning a blind eye to others. As the magazine *Voluntary Action* said recently: "Given that so many organizations engage in political activity, one might be forgiven for asking a straight question: why have many of them not been rebuked by the Charity Commission? Possibly because to do so would be to demonstrate conclusively that the charity law is not only being brought into daily disrepute, but it has itself become disreputable."

Charities are now being forced either to risk upsetting the Charity Commissioners and losing their status, or to indulge in all sorts of dodges, such as setting up limited companies working in partnership with charitable trusts and "laundering" the money. It makes no sense. Charities should be able to shake the complacency of even their supporters by admitting the limitations on what they can do, and the complicity of the nation by demonstrating the inadequacies in social provision. This is an essential element of their work. If the law forbids it, then the law makes no sense. The best Christmas present we could give to charities is a promise to change it.

The author, founder-director of Shelter, is returning to full-time charity work.

## Hunger strike details emerge Sakharovs set out on the road to recovery

Moscow, Dec. 13. — Dr Andrei Sakharov, the exiled Soviet dissident, and his wife appeared weak and shrunken after a 17-day hunger strike, but they have eagerly started on the road to recovery according to Miss Liza Alexeyeva, for whom they staged the protest.

"They looked very weak and very pale," said Miss Alexeyeva, who returned to Moscow today after visiting the Nobel Peace Prize winner and his wife Yelena in their hospital room in Gorkiy.

Miss Alexeyeva, aged 26, provided foreign reporters with fresh details of the hunger strike, which ended on Wednesday and won her the right to emigrate from the Soviet Union to join Dr Sakharov's stepson, who has married her by proxy. He is in the United States.

The strike appeared to have affected Mrs Sakharov more than Dr Sakharov, who suffers from a heart ailment, but she appears to be in better overall condition than he is, Miss Alexeyeva said.

"They both have circles around their eyes, and their noses are sticking out. His teeth look blue, and both their faces look shrunken," the Sakharovs were forcibly removed on December 4 from the flat where they lived in exile and taken to separate hospitals, where doctors threatened to force-feed them, Miss Alexeyeva said.

"The doctors told Sakharov that Yelena was dying and Yelena that Sakharov was dying during the whole time."

"At one point, they showed Yelena the tube they would use to force-feed her and said, 'Look, we'll have to shove this down your throat if you don't start eating.'"

Miss Alexeyeva and a family friend, Natalie Gesse,

left Moscow by train early yesterday for Gorkiy and returned to Moscow on an overnight train. Dr Sakharov was exiled to Gorkiy 250 miles from Moscow, in January 1980, after criticizing Soviet Military intervention in Afghanistan.

He and Mrs Sakharov began to fast on November 22 this year, vowing not to eat until the authorities allowed Miss Alexeyeva to leave the country to join her husband, Mr Alexei Semyonov, who is Mrs Sakharov's son by a previous marriage. Mr Semyonov, aged 25, is a graduate student at Brandeis University, near Boston.

Miss Alexeyeva said she expected her emigration papers tomorrow and would leave in a week or 10 days. She said she had not spoken by telephone with Mr Semyonov since the hunger strike ended.

Dr Sakharov lost 24½ lb and his wife lost 15½ lb during the strike, but they were in good spirits, Miss Alexeyeva said. They had not yet resumed a normal diet, but are drinking fruit juice and eating pieces of carrots and apples.

"When we first walked into their hospital room, Sakharov was taking his blood pressure. He ripped off the device when he saw us."

"Then Yelena ran in from the next room, where her arms around us and said, 'We're so glad to see you.'"

Miss Gesse said. The two women were allowed to spend three hours with the Sakharovs in a guarded, two-room suite on the fourth floor of Senezhko Hospital, where they are being held under false names.

Mrs Sakharov hopes to return to Moscow on Wednesday, she said, "but so far they are not allowed to enter the corridor."

## Iranian lawyer executed

By Our Foreign Staff

A prominent Iranian lawyer, Mr Muhammad Reza Khaksar, has been executed according to a statement released at the weekend by the Paris office of the People's Mujahedin Organization.

It added that he had been imprisoned three times under the Shah's rule and had suffered years of imprisonment and torture.

Meanwhile, Mr Terry Waite, the special envoy of the Archbishop of Canterbury, has admitted that he is facing difficulties in his attempt to secure the release

of Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman detained in Iran without trial for 15 months.

Mr Waite who successfully obtained the freedom of three Anglican missionaries from Iran, was being interviewed on the BBC's religious programme *Sunday*.

□ Tehran: Iran will seriously consider an attack inside Iraqi territory if that country "persists in its attitude of insolent obstinacy", it was decided at a meeting of the Cabinet here Tehran radio reported — AFP.



Snowballs not missiles into the crowd at Götter from the two German leaders

## FEW TANGIBLE RESULTS IN GERMAN TALKS

From Patricia Clough, East Berlin, Dec 13

The meeting between Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, has produced hardly any tangible results, despite the 15 hours of talks with Herr Honecker, the most intensive the Chancellor has had with another statesman. But the Chancellor insisted that during the course of next year, "it will be clearer that the talks have brought the solution to difficult problems much nearer."

Said off from the East German population like a dangerous bacillus, Herr Schmidt was shown around the Mecklenburg town of Götter today at the end of his three-day visit to East Germany.

Summing up his summit with Herr Honecker the Chancellor said that it added another piece of "Berechenbarkeit" — calculability — into East-West relations. What he meant by this, one of his favourite words, was the ability for Eastern and Western statesmen to know what the other is thinking, what his problems are and how he is likely to react to given situations.

West Germany's interest-free credit for East German trade, due to expire at the end of this year, has been extended for another six months pending negotiations on a new arrangement. Herr Honecker was also invited to visit West Germany. But the Chancellor clearly implied

that Herr Honecker's visit, the credit and the settlement of other questions, would depend on East Germany relaxing the harsh currency regulations which have made it very expensive for many West Germans to visit relations in the East.

He said West Germany could and would not change their laws which prevent them from recognizing East German nationality and from changing their respective representation into embassies, but there was room for movement. It was clear to both sides that there was a psychological element in many of these questions which could lead to the solution of many problems which were not directly linked to each other.

The king was outside the country, on a formal visit to the Gulf States, when the manifesto was published on December 13, the eve of national celebrations commemorating the third anniversary of the approval by the Spanish people of a democratic constitution.

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## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### King holds talks on 'manifesto'

Madrid. — King Juan Carlos met for two hours at the weekend with Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, Señor Alberto Oliart, the Defence Minister, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to discuss the military situation in Spain following the recent "Manifesto of 100" (Harry Debellos writes).

The manifesto indicated sympathy among some members of the armed forces for officers indicted in connection with the attempted coup of last February.

Although official sources called it a "normal working session" the meeting was unusual in that it did not form part of any regular periodic schedule, and — because certain ministers were not invited — it could not be considered a meeting of the National Defence Council.

The king was outside the country, on a formal visit to the Gulf States, when the manifesto was published on December 13, the eve of national celebrations commemorating the third anniversary of the approval by the Spanish people of a democratic constitution.

### Saint's relics found by police

Venice. — Italian police have recovered the skeleton of Santa Lucia stolen from a church on the Venice Grand Canal in November and returned the bones to the Patriarch of Venice.

A flying squad patrol found the bones of the third century saint in a plastic sack in a hunting lodge near Venice. Immediately afterwards, police arrested Gianfranco Fiozzo, aged 28, at his home in Narcon, a mainland village nine miles north of Venice, in connection with the theft.

### Muldoon tries a newcomer

Wellington. — The surprise in Mr Robert Muldoon's Cabinet is the promotion of Mr Warren Cooper, Postmaster General in the last Cabinet, who is given the Foreign Affairs portfolio, taking over from Mr Brian Talbot, Mr Cooper, aged 48, has had experience with foreign affairs or with overseas trade which become his principal responsibilities.

The other notable change is the switch from Health to

## Greenpeace leaves Muroa

Paris. — The ecologist group Greenpeace has withdrawn its protest boat from the waters around the nuclear testing site at Muroa in the South Pacific after an invitation from President Mitterrand for the crew to visit the atoll.

## Egypt drops plot charges

Cairo. — Egypt's prosecutor general has dropped charges against Mr Abdel Salam Zayyan, the former deputy premier and 16 others accused of involvement in an anti-government plot said to have been inspired by Moscow.

The 17, among 1,600 people arrested by the late President Sadat last September are now expected to be released.

## Kenya increases prices for farmers

Nairobi, Dec 13. — President Moi of Kenya has ordered the release of 2,173 short-term prisoners and announced increased prices for farmers (Charles Harrison writes).

Farmers will receive more for maize, wheat, cotton, rice and milk in an effort to stimulate higher production and a move designed to ensure that Kenya does not suffer again the shortages of local foods experienced last year.

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THE ARTS

Television

An act of faith

If the ways of God are mysterious then the ways of families are by no means an open book. Graham Greene's *The Potting Shed* snatches at both themes and was Yorkshire Television's choice of night to open its new series of *Celebrity Playhouse*, with Paul Scofield, Celia Johnson, Anna Massey and Maurice Denham to justify the series' title.

This is one of those Greene stories which, I feel, almost needs an introduction about pre-Vatican II Catholicism before one can fairly comprehend its twists and turns. What happened to James Callaghan in the potting shed was that he hanged himself after his rationalist father had stepped on the burgeoning beliefs inculcated by his uncle, a Catholic priest and therefore a pariah in this secular family.

Apparently, the boy is raised to life like Lazarus after his uncle has offered the bargain to God that he will surrender the most valuable thing he has — his faith — if the boy lives. God appears to have accepted. The priest continues to practice without faith, the father's professional disbelief is damaged, and the boy, left without memory of the event, is made a family outcast so that father can simulate his previous convictions without being discomfited by the sight of a walking miracle round the house.

We come to it when father is dying thirty years on. The family is gathered, minus priestly uncle and, they hope, the walking miracle, to tell him from the mortal coil. It is not to be so easy and the middle-aged miracle turns up to try to discover the secret of the potting shed and his estrangement.

It is a play full of angst that needs more than the usual effort to suspend disbelief, but it was admirably acted. Paul Scofield, who resists television for years at a time, moved from psychological turmoil to a sort of reasonable hope, with predictable ease.

Celia Johnson, as his mother, Anna Massey, as his former wife, and Maurice Denham as the priest temporarily diverted from the Holy Spirit to a more liquid variety, gave excellent support but the play, directed by David Cunliffe, remained strangely quaint.

McBride Reading Crime, by Bruce Crowther, in Granada's last offering in its *Knife Edge* series on Saturday Night. The end of this run of thriller plays will not leave a sense of deprivation. This play dealt with three university students, facing unemployment of course, who cook up a crime, fall into the hands of professionals and come to grief.

There was an idea here somewhere but it was leached of any stereotypical characters and forced dialogue. Wherever three students are gathered together these days one is learning towards some kind of political extremism or other. A concomitant of the extremism appears to be a casual attitude towards copulation that makes love as unattractive as rifle drill and, frankly, I would be prepared to take it for granted rather than see it.

RBC's *Everyman* last night, which devoted itself to the results of a poll by the European Values Group about what everyone thinks of this or that, was rather pipped at the post, the results having appeared at some length in the press.

This "biggest-ever" poll is still going on, gathering impetus like a snowball. The British appear to be more ready to fight for their country than most well-inclined towards the Almighty, and disapproving about adultery. As polls do not carry — as well they might — a warning that acceptance can damage your judgement those who this morning feel their stiff upper lips might consider that attitudes as reflected by such investigations are rather like front rooms used to be in the north of England, for visitors only. The real answers are often kept out of sight.

Dennis Hackett

Symposium

Dramatic spirit that still lives

Of all Stanislavsky's disciples, Vsevolod Meyerhold was the most precocious and, in ways that have only recently come to light, the most influential. Charles Marowitz has just returned from the Meyerhold Symposium sponsored by Stockholm's Teater Schahrazad, the first celebration of this director's work outside the Soviet Union.

Although a protégé of Stanislavsky (he played Konstantin in the Moscow Arts production of *The Seagull*), Meyerhold set himself squarely against the master's cult of psychological realism and the Theatre of the Self-Evident. While Stanislavsky continued to mount Turgenyev and Tolstoy, Meyerhold embraced Maeterlinck and the symbolists. A revolutionary in politics as well as art, he was actively involved in the Russian revolution — even imprisoned for some months — and, after the Bolsheviks took power, was put in charge of the theatrical department for the entire Soviet Republic.

For about three years, he was the most powerful man in the Russian theatre. His "constructivist" productions in the Twenties, his advocacy of Mayakovsky (he mounted the first Soviet play, *Mayakovsky's Mystery Bouffe*, in 1918) and his breathtaking reconstructions of classics such as Gogol's *Inspector General* and Ostrovsky's *The Forest* made him a one-man aesthetic revolution in the Twenties and Thirties. But, with Lenin's death and the encroachment of Stalinism, his fortunes began to wane. As the Soviet Writers' Congress of 1934, at which Zhdanov proclaimed the line of Social Realism, Meyerhold's knell was already sounded.

Criticism against him, both from Stalin's hard-line supporters and those using the "new dispensation" as a way of settling old debts, began to appear on all sides. On June 13, 1938, Meyerhold was scheduled to speak at the All-Union Conference of Stage Directors where he was expected to admit "falseness of his ways". According to one account, the recantation never took place and, instead, Meyerhold made a court-

ageous defence of his life as an artist. According to later and more substantiated accounts, he finally bent the knee and performed an entirely uncharacteristic act of contrition. The facts remain inconclusive, despite recently uncovered "records" in the Soviet archives. What is indisputable is that he was arrested immediately after the conference and disappeared from view. The general consensus is that he died before a firing squad in 1940, although there are persistent accounts of him surviving in a labour camp until 1942, even directing plays there in some weird parody of the *Marat/Sade*.

The central figure of the Stockholm symposium was Alexander Fevral'sky, one of Meyerhold's assistants and theatre secretary who is most responsible for having preserved the records of the director's work and ideas. In the now-familiar Soviet mode, Fevral'sky, who looks somewhat like a typical Arthur Lowe dutifully related the myth of "the great master" with anecdotes and reminiscences which were curiously flavourless, respectful without being reverent, but, as it were, only putting gloss on what was already known about the man. He was not to be drawn on political matters and was clearly there only as the official custodian of the legend.

The multitudinous commentary on the director from a variety of academic sources paled by contrast with the appearance of Meyerhold himself in Protopopov's 1978 film *The White Eagle*, where the master of the Anti-Naturalist was paired with Kozlov, one of Stanislavsky's leading Moscow Arts actors. If it was a contest between the Psychological and Theatrical schools of



Meyerhold after the Revolution: the power of Russian theatre

acting (which it was not), the mugging, mannered, thoroughly outrageous Meyerhold won hands down.

The arcane mysteries of bio-mechanics, Meyerhold's elaborate physical training technique, were heavily discussed — most lucidly perhaps by Mel Gordon and Alma Law of New York, who have done much practical work to reconstruct the theories of the Twenties, Swedish-based companies such as Earth Circus and the sponsoring Teater Schahrazad showed the Meyerhold influence to be bristlingly alive; the former in exercises which grew out of the work of The Living Theatre and the latter in a panoramic collage of Meyerhold's life entitled *Doctor Dappertutto* (which was the director's early nom-de-plume).

One of the most riveting expositions came from England's Nick Worrall who vividly evoked Meyerhold's misdeeds in *The Inspector-General*, making the kind of cross-connections between

theory and practice that prove just how much the theatre sometimes owes to the academic intelligence. But, for the most part, there was a lot of historical and biographical rehashing from men whose admiration of Meyerhold's achievement was in no way enlivened by a similarly original cast of mind.

Meyerhold was officially rehabilitated in 1955 but, given the ambivalence that attaches to Soviet resuscitations, he remained obscure for another fifteen years — lovingly researched and rhapsodized on by a handful of scholars and directors in the West. But his influence still pervades Russia and is most noticeable in Robert Sturua's *Richard III* with the Rushmore Company of Georgia, seen in Edinburgh and then at the Round House in London. For an influence closer to home, there is no need to look further than Brook's gymnastic, white-walled *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Clearly, if ours is a theatre that applauds Brecht and Grotowski, the experiments of Peter Brook in Paris and Peter Weiss in Berlin, the kinetic vitality of companies such as La Mama and The Living Theatre, then Meyerhold must wedge his way into the syllabuses of universities and drama schools. For by his insistence that the theatre must be a showplace for meaningful physicality, for refreshed and restructured classics, and for new plays which reflect contemporary ideas not stultified in conventional forms, Meyerhold is the rampaging spirit of the twentieth century — much more so than his mentor Stanislavsky or any of the self-styled Method disciples who invoke his name. The spirit of Meyerhold, and it certainly pervaded the four crowded days of that breathless symposium, is more a zeitgeist than a poltergeist; it is more the prevailing spirit of the present than a lot of murky rumblings from the past.

Concerts

Melodic intensity

Stern/Wolf

Festival Hall

Bartokians should rejoice that the master's Violin Sonata No 1 is now firmly placed in the repertoire after suffering a step-child status for several decades. It made a splendid centrepiece to Isaac Stern's recital. His interpretation was interesting and somewhat unexpected for the refined inflections which he sought out the music's hidden meanings. The speculative calm achieved in this Adagio's final pages was, indeed, absolutely exceptional. The finale was less remarkable, although its rippling, wayward pulsations were delicious in themselves.

Written just seven years after the Brahms, in 1886, Franck's Violin Sonata alternates calm and fury, sometimes combining them. This performance, however, had throughout, even in the second movement's explosive start, a poised only sometimes achieving a soaring, transcendent works. The chief vehicles of this was a firm projection of the music's long lines and a gentle, probably not wholly conscious, emphasis on the relationships between the various themes. Again Mr Wolf excelled in a demanding piano part.

Especially in its first movement, Brahms's Sonata, Op 78, has an intimate stance, a warning that acceptance can damage your judgement those who this morning feel their stiff upper lips might consider that attitudes as reflected by such investigations are rather like front rooms used to be in the north of England, for visitors only. The real answers are often kept out of sight.

Sheba Sound

Wigmore Hall

"Fair blows the wind from France", they called their programme, but it took the encore to persuade us of the cordiality of the entente between the French and English baroque and contemporary music presented by the Sheba Sound. Gordon Langford's arful arrangement for this group of two oboes, bassoon and harpsichord of Daquin's *Le Coucou* (bassoon as wandering voice) was one of the most engaging pieces in an ostensibly imaginative but ultimately tedious and undernourishing programme.

It is not that the group lack enterprise: they had commissioned three new works. Nor is it that they lack artistry: their playing was vivid and well blended, their spoken commentaries were terse and to the point. But too much of their music was either of the sort that gives more pleasure to the performer than to the listener, or of very limited curiosity value.

If some Rameau harpsichord variations were a first category, then the

fruitful partnership with Mr Wolf again, the music's later intensifications were effortlessly achieved. However, the autumnal mellowness of Brahms, evidently had in mind was sketched rather than made fully explicit.

In the slow movement again Mr Stern's tone did not show the variety of colour of former years. Yet the accumulated wisdom of years became evident in the refined inflections which he sought out the music's hidden meanings. The speculative calm achieved in this Adagio's final pages was, indeed, absolutely exceptional. The finale was less remarkable, although its rippling, wayward pulsations were delicious in themselves.

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Max Harrison

labyrinthine formula writing of Etienne Odi's *Andante* and Rondo for bassoon was the spot on the programme. The first London performance of Jonathan Harvey's *Modernist Music* revealed it as a cunningly inventive fantasy-rondo on Harvey and Bach, witty, vital, but inconsequential. Across the Channel, his older contemporary, Jean-Michel Damase (discovered by Colette, taught by Cortot) was, for the while, entertaining in an elegantly nostalgic *Suite pour Quatuor*, faultlessly crafted, yet to the memory of Les Six only as Perno is to ashmole.

The high point of the evening was Elizabeth Maconchy's *Tristano*, the motor energy, here neo-Straussian, there neo-baroque, of its outer two movements constantly generating fresh ideas and purpose, and framing an exquisitely imagined, tenderly affective modal lullaby. It was one of the few pieces to exploit imaginatively the full expressive potential of this particular combination of instruments. This, and the French wine generously offered to everyone afterwards, was some reward for braving the snow and the rest of the programme.

Hilary Finch

Il trovatore

Covent Garden

Dame Joan Sutherland has recorded Verdi's *Il trovatore*, but not until now sung it on stage here. For her welcome return to the opera house whence she set off round the world the Royal Opera had assembled a distinguished cast round her, likewise mostly singing their roles for the first time. Elena Obraztsova indeed, so familiar and eminent a singer on records and television, was actually making her Covent Garden debut.

Visconti's production was a distinguished achievement 12 years ago and several of Sanjurjo's sets still look handsome and striking, notably those in the gypsy encampment and beneath the walls of Castellor, though the original colour schemes have faded with the advent of new costumes brought by their wearers. The Visconti style is both family and seldom discernible.

The Leonora of *Trovatore* is a stately, passive heroine, doomed to suffer through out. Sutherland plays her so and sings her music accurately, with some nobility, and clearer Italian words than was her wont, but with less brilliance and less pathos than I expected. The voice has become darker in timbre, the chest notes clear but not strong; as fine and eloquent as anything in her performance, the sang alternative, less familiar versions, and the cadenza of "Faccia la notte", apt and beautiful, was not as printed in the score, though perhaps associated with a famous past exponent, her husband, Richard Bonynge, who conducted, is

A highlight of the evening was the abduction ensemble outside the convent, "Zio deggio e posso crederlo", both spacious and excitable, with Yuri Mazurok to partner

The Marriage

Collegiate Theatre

"A completely improbable occurrence" is the subtitle of Gogol's prose comedy *The Marriage*, about the abortive bullying of a bachelor to join the ranks of the married. And improbable it was too, at the time, this virtually plotless parody of love and of comedy. When Musorgsky set just one act about 30 years later his contemporaries thought experimentalism had gone too far; to stage this will-o'-the-wisp seemed the crowning improbability.

It has, of course, an inbuilt advantage in leaving one hungry for more; but the success of its British premiere by Nexus Opera and Divertimenti lay in the vital

Opera



Mazurok and Sutherland, heroic and eloquent

a keen collector of such historical variants. Obraztsova is a properly dynamic and affecting Antonia. She lives every phrase she sings; I happen to detest the metallic, unsteady sound of her incisive voice, except in soft music, such as the remembered cry of "Mi vincerai".

The melodious invention, for which *Trovatore* is particularly loved, and the strong drama were well served by the principal men. Franco Bonisoli has the presence of a handsome Manrico, and the spirit for his music, as well as the vocal expertise and sensibility: "Ah si, ben mio" was his, but not sentimental. "Di quella pira" splendidly heroic.

A highlight of the evening was the abduction ensemble outside the convent, "Zio deggio e posso crederlo", both spacious and excitable, with Yuri Mazurok to partner

fusion of idea, musical realization and dramatic recreation. In his "experiment" in dramatic music in prose" Musorgsky creates an astonishingly fresh and flexible musical reproduction of everyday speech and of Gogol's tellingly fragmented sentences, his shifting intonations and inflections nicely caught in Stephen Oliver's beautifully articulated translation.

As the music draws out the little misadventures of Gogol's characters without ever caricaturing, Ronald Eyre's direction, in its deft timing, its spare and witty use of business, drew from each actor a portrayal as speedy, economic and purposeful as the best cartoon line. As the bachelor Podkolyostin Richard Stuart was facially and vocally supple, every passing temptation,

Sutherland and Bonisoli. This Luna is a light but truly heroic baritone, personable, with a hint of the rake as well as the popular leader. "Il balen" and its concluding section with chorus were superbly sung.

John Tomlinson gave us a determined, ardent Ferrando, not completely at ease in the important first scene, because Bonynge seemed to be conducting a different account of the scene, his own, not Tomlinson's. There were several faults of ensemble, and several times which appeared not to suit his singers. In the scene outside Castellor he found a common factor with cast and chorus, and with the orchestra too. His rapport should have been apparent throughout: let us hope it will improve in later performances.

William Mann

and stubbornly resistant to the matchmaking of Fyolka (Anne-Marie Owens), the urging of friend Kochukov (Michael Bulman) and the gaudiness of servant Stepan (Richard Wigmore).

Every note was elegantly and imaginatively touched in by Lionel Friend's direction of Divertimenti's stylish playing of Oliver Knussen and Colin Matthews' orchestration of the short score — true, Musorgsky, gently imperious with their own fancy. Held together visually in David Bligh's costly realistic set, as compact and detailed as the score, the performance revealed one strong answer, in 1853 and in 40 minutes, to many of the questions still plaguing contemporary music-dramatists.

Hilary Finch

Theatre

Fight between equals

True West

Cottesloe

"So they take off after each other straight into an endless black prairie. . . . And the one who's chasing doesn't know where the other one is taking him. And the one who's being chased doesn't know where he's going. And the same goes for the kind of play Sam Shepard used to write, saturated in the romance of the American West, and as lacking in any sense of direction as a drop-out hitchhiker."

*True West*, which strikes me as Shepard's best work since *The Tooth of Crime*, is not like that. It is rich in its own vein of New Frontier poetry, the ghostly presence of a heroic past lumbering behind the tidy Californian suburbs and throughway motels, but it also holds the stage as a robustly plotted piece of naturalism. Firmly though he put the boot into Hollywood in *Angel City* and again in this play, it seems that the place taught him something about storytelling.

Take the opening chunk of synopsis. It evokes the forces at work under the domestic surface; it is offered as the kind of garbage the lunatic studios might snap up; and it tells you something about the future of the two main characters.

They are brothers, reflecting two sides of Shepard himself; Austin, a middle-class screen-writer, and Lee, a wild vagabond who lives in the desert, scratching an existence out of dog-fighting and petty crime. Coming together after years apart, they are first seen jockeying for status on the neutral territory of their mother's house.

On one side, the timid conformist with a flourishing career, on the other the self-reliant outcast with nothing in the world. The first round goes to Austin when he wearily hands over the car keys to get Lee out of the

house for a vital meeting with his producer.

In the second round Lee comes storming back in mid-confusion, with a stolen television set, and bulldozes the producer into a drowsy golf date at which he knocks the producer out of the ring by selling an idea of his own at the expense of Austin's cherished script.

Austin swiftly takes revenge by refusing to collaborate, leaving his illiterate rival to confront the typewriter alone for a long night's writer's block, first tearing ribbons out of the machine, in handbills and finally dismembering it with a stubby golf club.

The venomously comic reversal is completed with Austin's return to make breakfast with a large consignment of stolen toasters. Each brother envies the other; and with the unexpected arrival of the mother they move in as Ned Chaillet said of the New York production, for a "primal contest of dominance".

Each phase of the comedy is beautifully prepared and overflowing with unexpected invention. John Schlesinger's production precisely locates the action in a seemingly realistic environment where anything can happen, and where great flicks cluttered living room looks out on a limitless void. The show is the occasion for a major gladiatorial cosmic encounter between Bob Hoskins and Antonio Sher.

Until last time it seems to be a walkover for the sun-blackened space-filling Hoskins, who dominates the stage no less in enraged literary frustration than in plunging his villainous opponent. You cannot say he exceeds Hoskins in sheer danger, but it is a fight between equals.

Irving Wardle

Lady in the Dark

Nottingham

*Lady in the Dark* is a legend of its own time. It brought Moss Hart together with Ira Gershwin and Kurt Weill to tell a musical story of psychoanalysis in the glamorous world of fashion magazines. It gave Gertrude Lawrence a great personal success during the Second World War and made the names of Victor Mature and Danny Kaye. It was never professionally performed in England.

Its most legendary moment was the ridding off of a string of names of Russian composers by the young Danny Kaye in the song called "Tchaikowsky", which has become a competition song for fast-tongued singers. Mr Kaye still holds the record, bettering his speed every year in gratitude to the syllables that made him a star. Crispin Thomas's production at the Nottingham Playhouse confronts that legend by her total surrender.

The names are pronounced, but without haste, and there is no risk that the song might steal the limelight from the star, as nearly happened with Gertrude Lawrence. Celeste Holm, in her British debut, is allowed to walk into the classic song which follows, "The Saga of Jenny", and softly sing that "in 27 languages she couldn't say no", but Miss Holm's justified personal legend has already been sabotaged by an

inadequate microphone which rustles and echoes until she fails to amplify clearly until the very last song, "My Ship", when suddenly she is audible and entrancing.

She has been chasing the words and the chords of the song on the psychiatrist's couch since the beginning of the show and finding them is a neat dramatic (and romantic) demonstration of the success of her analysis. The poor amplification, of a voice which now needs electrical assistance, could make it seem as if she was seeking an efficient sound man.

Pieces were falling off Hugh Durrant's elegant setting all evening and technically the show had one of those nights that make actors cringe years after the event. The pity is that such things do distract and disrupt the clever, economical development of the story, reaching back to the childhood experiences which block a full emotional life for Miss Holm's character.

Weill's music, despite its astringent lines, has a lush seductiveness that develops a tension perfectly suited to Hart's blend of a nervous breakdown and romance. There are three love stories that Miss Holm must play and there the casting lets her down.

The show comes more to life when it is left to the women on Miss Holm's fashion magazine, with a performance by Cristina Avery which is cold brass.

Ned Chaillet

New music

West Square Electronics

St John's

As at their St John's concert last month the West Square Electronic Music Ensemble kicked off on Saturday night with a version of Stockhausen's *Solo* for melody instrument and feedback. It was, in fact, the premiere of a new realization for trombone, with James Fulkerson as soloist. The opening phrases were somewhat lugubrious and they were soon picked up by the feedback system and recycled through the loudspeakers. The effect was frankly of several lugubrious trombones, yet they made unpredictable, free-ranging counterpoint together.

Tristan Cary's *I Am Here* for soprano and four-channel tape was the longest but also the most imaginative piece. Jane Manning sang and gasped a text by Peter Zinovieff that was modified in a great variety of ways on tape, and to real dramatic purpose, for there is a true dialogue between the live performers' contributions and what emerges from the loudspeakers. There is, indeed, a considerable theatrical element, with gastruculations and other movements by the singer, and some lighting effects. The piece is at a constant high pitch of excitement and hence quite wearing; but it absorbed one's attention throughout.

In Barry Anderson's *Sword the Truest Sonnets*, Mr Fulkerson was somewhat overwhelmed by the rather industrial noises from the

loudspeakers at St John's.

Robert Saxton's *Cantata No 3*, another of his recent pieces, was unusual and interesting. A male recorded voice intermittently read a text by Richard Gaskell accompanied by vocal citations by two sopranos (Lynda Richardson and Miss Manning). To this discreet electronic sounds were added, these including a replaying of some of the sopranos' music. The work grew mildly agitated, the voices being multiplied up to a sudden ending.

Max Harrison

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# Poland: will the general's gamble keep the Russians out?

President Brezhnev declared almost a year ago that the Russians would not abandon Poland in its "hour of need." And Moscow will now give clear political, economic and, if necessary, military backing to General Wojciech Jaruzelski for taking the steps the Soviet leaders have been calling for in public and private with increasing urgency.

For the Russians, Poland's "hour of need" is only minutes away from disaster, for more than a year they have been watching the gradual political and economic collapse of Poland with undisguised alarm. The Soviet press has given public warnings that the country was in the grip of counter-revolution. Ideologists have pointed to the weakening of the communist party's authority, economists have spoken of anarchy and chaos caused by strikes, Russian nationalists have fumed at the rising anti-Soviet feeling in the country.

The Soviet Union saw Poland sliding inexorably into disaster. But the Russians have been almost powerless to oppose and crush the forces that presented Moscow with its greatest political challenge since the Second World War. They have tried almost everything: on the one hand, threats, cajolery and blackmail; on the other, economic aid, understanding, accommodation and restraint. Nothing has worked. Until yesterday the Poles had not "turned the course of events" as they promised the Soviet leadership in February. They had not reasserted the supremacy of the party, brought Solidarity to heel and enforced social and economic discipline.

The consequences were extremely serious. Had the Solidarity call for a national referendum on the fitness of the communists to govern been carried through, had government concessions gone any further and had the Polish quest for "renewal" become a repudiation of its whole post-war history, the Soviet Union's position in Eastern Europe would have been irretrievable. The Soviet leadership, which deliberately threatened such dire consequences, would have been shown



General Jaruzelski and Mr. Brezhnev: the time for promises is past

by Michael Binyon

up as an ageing, toothless and impotent bear.

Workers in other countries with similar problems, such as in Romania, might have drawn inspiration from the Polish example. Moscow's control over its strategic East European buffer zone would have been fatally weakened. As the Russians have frequently stated, the socialist community is inseparable. Having insisted that the defence of the communist system and ideology is the duty of every communist state, the Russians cannot allow a challenge to go unchecked indefinitely.

But Poland placed the Soviet Union in an insoluble dilemma. The old time-tested solution, military invasion, could be used only at a suicidal risk to equally vital Soviet interests. In the wake of Afghanistan, the Russians know that whatever hopes they still entertain of maintaining an island of détente in western Europe would be shattered. The West, which has had plenty of time after at least four near-invasions to coordinate its response, has made it clear to the Russians

that East-West trade would be brought to a standstill for long enough to "damage the already weak and deteriorating Soviet economy." Most important, the vital arms negotiations which have only now resumed after the Americans' refusal to ratify the Salt agreement, would be brought to an abrupt halt. The arms race would be on again in earnest.

The Soviet solution inasmuch as Moscow had one, has always been, therefore, to force the Polish leadership to take action to restore the situation. Pressure on the leadership to do so has been exerted constantly and in all manner of ways: press reports, private warnings by visiting Soviet politburo members such as Mr Mikhail Suslov, Mr Andrei Gromyko and Mr Victor Grishin, meetings with Polish leaders in Moscow, sharply worded letters to the Polish communist party from the Soviet party's central committee, military manoeuvres in and around Poland, public and private whipping up anti-Polish feeling in factories across the Soviet Union, covert and overt

attempts to influence elections and meetings within Poland.

But now that General Jaruzelski has taken some of the steps Moscow has been calling for, particularly the detention of Solidarity militants and the clamp-down on the press, the Soviet leaders may believe their pressure has paid off — for a while. The Polish leaders, however, will have to follow the draconian measures with long-term reinforcement of state party authority. The Soviet leadership has become distrustful of Polish promises: Mr Stanislaw Kania, the party leader, whose policy of compromise so clearly failed in Moscow's view, is an ever present reproach to those Soviet leaders who initially cautioned patience and moderation in the teeth of what appears to have been strong pressure for a sharp and swift response 18 months ago.

Will a sharp response from Moscow now be needed? Soviet reporting of the Polish crisis in the past week did not hint that the breaking point had been reached, though on Friday Tass significantly attacked the Roman Catholic church, a body which the Russians seemed to have regarded earlier as a stabilizing factor. But as one western diplomat remarked some months ago, "if you're going to invade, you don't advertise it in Pravda."

All depends on the response from the Polish people. If a general strike paralyses Poland and the situation looks like getting out of hand, critically weakening Poland's reliability as a military ally in the Warsaw Pact — always a main Soviet concern — it is difficult to see how the Russians can hold back any longer while retaining credibility at home, in Eastern Europe and in the West (for the Soviet leadership has no intention of letting the West believe Moscow can countenance a flouting of its vital interests).

But if Poland's emergency measures can satisfy some of the minimum demands of the Brezhnev doctrine, then General Jaruzelski may have spared his nation a Soviet physical intervention — the last physical anyone wants in Warsaw, Moscow, Washington or anywhere else.

# The man who spreads the Tony Benn gospel in Scotland



George Galloway: irritating the party moderates

While Mr. Foot and the Labour Party's National Executive Committee attempt to grasp the nettle of the Militant Tendency, a separate but equally significant struggle continues for control of the party's traditional and vital votebase of Scotland.

Labour cannot do without Scotland, where it holds 42 of the 71 parliamentary seats. The tally was 44 until Mr Robert McLennan and Dr Dickson Mabon defected to the Social Democrats.

The party's broad left, which essentially means supporters of Mr Tony Benn, has a narrow but effective control of Labour's Scottish executive committee, and has recently been using that forum to promote Mr Benn and Bennite policies, to the occasional irritation — and annoyance of Mr Foot and the NEC.

The Scottish executive is a curious body, with no real policy making powers but considerable influence as a pressure group within the party, particularly on Scottish issues. Its powers were beefed up in 1976 in expectation of the establishment of a Scottish Assembly, and those powers of policy making on certain domestic issues are still technically in existence, although in fact it can do little but put up suggestions to the NEC in London.

Fifteen of the executive's 25 seats are now occupied by left-wingers, including the current chairman, Mr George Galloway, a charismatic 27-year-old with a well-used face that looks nearer 40; Mr Galloway is the party's full-time organiser in Dundee, and is therefore technically an employee of the NEC in London. That has in the past inhibited him from promulgating policies and statements which run directly counter to official party thinking.

In the Scottish party's annual conference last year,

left-wingers succeeded with their motion that Britain should withdraw from Nato, a suggestion which runs counter to national conference policy. Recently, the Galloway faction attempted to have the anti-Nato line included in one of the three party political broadcasts that are made each year specifically for Scotland. The issue drew blood between Mr Galloway and Mrs Helen Liddell, the party's Scottish secretary, and a moderate, who has responsibility for the broadcasts.

In the event Mrs Liddell won the day, and the Nato issue was not aired. But the left made little secret of their desire to remove Mrs Liddell and Mr James Allison, the Scottish organiser, both employees of the NEC, and replace them with officials more kindly disposed towards the left. Such a move would give Mr Galloway and his followers wide and valuable access to the party's information and organisation at the Glasgow headquarters in Keir Hardie House.

Mr Galloway was on the offensive again when the party leader visited Glasgow last month. Mr Foot briefly attended a meeting of the Scottish executive, and then sought more uplifting entertainment from a football match at Ibrox Park. In his absence the executive carried a motion condemning him for not supporting Mr Benn; moderates on the committee who objected to the resolution managed only to get Mr Foot's name removed from it, but the sting remained.

Still Mr Galloway continues to irritate. His latest excess, in the eyes of party moderates, was to give an interview to the Communist journal *Workers' Monthly* in which he suggested that the Communist Party should be allowed to affiliate to the Labour Party, in the same way that a body like the Fabian Society does. He argued that there was an intellectual vacuum in the official party thinking, which was in danger of being filled by Trotskyites and which would be much better filled by Communists. Mr Galloway is in trouble with the NEC again.

The Bennites' zeal in taking control of the Scottish party executive has not so far been matched in the constituencies, where left-wing challenges to sitting MPs during the recent round of reselection have been sparse apart from the William Hamilton reselection replay in Central Fife yesterday, the only other serious left-wing challenge comes on Friday, when Mr Ian Campbell faces reselection for his seat in Dumfriesshire West, which he holds with a 6,457 majority. The left's candidate is Mr Len Crawley, an official of the usually right-wing electrical union. He is regarded as having a strong chance because of what the local party regards as a

lacklustre performance as an MP by Mr Campbell.

The left's failure to mount a major assault on sitting MPs stems partly from insufficient support in many constituencies, despite their claims to be strongly represented everywhere in Scotland.

But the decision is chiefly tactical, in order to present a united Labour front to face the challenge of the SDP. It is significant that Mr Hugh Wypych, the Communist Scottish secretary of the TGWU, has instructed all candidates on the union's parliamentary panel not to oppose sitting Labour MPs. But there will be other chances for the left before long, more Labour MPs are likely to defect to the SDP, creating vacancies, and proposed boundary changes in Scotland may create several new seats.

Nevertheless the internal rowing within the Scottish party has already inflicted considerable damage, and has done nothing to stem the tide. The latest Scottish opinion poll, published in the *Glasgow Herald* immediately after the Crosby by-election, showed that Labour's commanding lead in the north of Scotland had fallen in two months from 52 to 40 per cent, while SDP support had risen from 16 to 27 per cent in the same time. The Tories and Scottish Nationalists declined to 15 and 17 per cent respectively.

For all the left's success within the Scottish party, and the strong support for Mr Benn in the deputy leadership election, the Scottish Labour MPs remain an overwhelmingly moderate body.

The majority of Scots MPs view Mr Galloway's control of the executive with distaste, and were furious at his suggestion that the Communist Party should be allowed to affiliate. Mr George Robertson, the moderate member for Hamilton, told me: "The party was revitalised to meet the Scottish Nationalist challenge. After the referendum collapse, and the demolition of the SNP at the 1979 election, there was a vacuum in the party. The left slid into the vacuum, and turned the propaganda machine round. They have a temporary tactical advantage."

Mr Galloway's plans are far from temporary. The left want much more autonomy for the party in Scotland, and the Scottish executive's proposal for its own devolution are currently being studied by an NEC working party. They argue, with justification, that many government departments and powers are already devolved in Scotland. One of the main concerns is on housing, which has a much higher ratio of council to private housing than the rest of the United Kingdom.

The left also continue to press for a Scottish Assembly, the establishment of which would naturally give the Scottish executive of the party much greater power within its own domain. Moderates within the party are currently scheming to wrest back control of the executive at the annual conference next spring, when Mr Galloway's term as chairman ends. His successor will be Mr James McCaffery, a left-winger and the mineworkers' union representative, currently vice-chairman. But there is strong opposition from moderates keen to nip in the bud any idea of a Tartan People's Republic.

Alan Hamilton

# Or did I really write A Clockwork Lemon?

An otherwise kindly reviewer of my novel *Material* has informed his readers that I am a sufferer from daltonism, which the British call colour blindness. This presumably was to prepare readers of the novel for gross solecisms of chromatic description — blue palms and orange coconuts and green-skinned Tamils. Prospective readers who do, in fact, find such misinterpretations of the visible world in my fiction can set their fears at rest. I always ask a person with normal vision — always a woman, men cannot be trusted to check my pigments, as I ask a woman also to check the clothes I put on my women characters.

There are male authors who dress their women atrociously — D. H. Lawrence, for instance — but I have never yet shown bad taste in colour and, similarly, I have never imposed my daltonism on my readers. Colour cecity was discovered by John Dalton, a native of my own city of Manchester. For me it is daltonism may be fancifully seen as a kind of unwilling regional patriotism.

We usually discover that we have the affliction when we are at school and gain eccentrically in art lessons. I produced trees with orange leaves and was laughed at by all the girls as well as, cruelly, my teacher, who was a nun. It is the green part of the spectrum that gives trouble. Later our achromatopsia can be confirmed by use of that Japanese test which is really a pointillist

colour composition in which the figure stands clearly for the normally sighted but for the unfortunate daltonians.

I recognize that this subject will be of small interest for many of my readers (viz the normally sighted), but, as this is an age supposedly concerned with the welfare of minorities, it is well that the majority realize what danger lies for the whole world in the assumption that colour is a visible element in communications.

During the last war I was staying for a time in the mess of a training centre of the Royal Air Force. There was a delightful senior officer, too old for flying, whose task it was to test flying recruits for physical suitability for the job. He came into the mess one evening and said: "A very strange thing, gentlemen, but I'm discovering that about 30 per cent of our candidates are colour blind."

He then dawned upon us that this senior officer had gone through life with an undiagnosed case of achromatopsia, and that he had rejected innumerable recruits whose colour vision was normal while accepting a smaller number who could not distinguish a red signal from a green. The same thing happened for a long time in the navy and the railway. Colour blind drivers of cars are able to distinguish



the colours of traffic signals through their position rather than their essence, and there are no recorded cases of road accidents caused by achromatopsia. But there are too many semantic systems based on sheer colour, and some of these are becoming too sophisticated for safety. At Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, passengers are admitted to sections of the transatlantic flights on the basis of possession of a boarding card which may be any colour from violet to crimson. I find it embarrassing to ask fellow-passengers what colour my card is: they think that I am indulging in a pointed joke. At the Festival Hall in London there are brown tickets and green tickets. I have ceased to attend concerts there since I do not care to divulge my ticket to strangers. I understand that and here comes danger more than mere embarrassment — the Pentagon is in favour of a colour taxonomy for the final

processes of pressing the doomsday button — a logical conclusion to the spectrum of coloured "alerts" that is already in use.

Evidently, the normally visioned just cannot comprehend a state of affairs in which human beings, otherwise sane and healthy, fail to see parts of the rainbow or, seeing them, confuse them. In the London Underground some years ago passengers were issued with either white or yellow tickets. If you had a yellow ticket you pushed it into a machine as you left the station; if you had a white ticket you handed it to the ticket collector.

Now all the ticket collectors on the London transport system are black West Indians, hypersensitive to the colour question. When I daltonically handed a yellow ticket to a black collector and was told that I had to push it into a machine, I answered, naturally: "Sorry, I'm colour blind." This was taken to be

an adverse comment on the existence of black-skinned people in the United Kingdom, and I nearly died myself in a fight.

Italians, whose world is alive with southern colour, must already pity Northerners like myself, who live in a world of grey skies, grey clothes and grey public buildings. What must they think of a colour-blind Northerner, who cannot appreciate the glories of Italian painting? What we never have we never miss, and I have learned to appreciate the visual arts through their handling of shape and formal balance rather than their skill with indigo and gamboge (whatever they are).

I notice that the tone-deaf are not pitted as the colour-blind in a man who cannot distinguish a flute from a trumpet or hear counterpoint or tell true harmony from false is regarded as fairly normal. I don't think Italy, universally regarded as a country of musicians, has been less renowned for its gradations of what is termed orchestral tone-colour.

Puccini and Respighi are exceptional in their handling of orchestral light and shade, but they had to learn their technique from the French, Verdi, even in *Falstaff*, strikes my ear as more or less monochrome. This may be a national compensation for abnormal capacity for colour in visual colour. On the other hand the French, who produced Debussy and Ravel, also produced the Impressionists. The British

have produced nothing that can be regarded as brightly coloured, either in the visual or the auditory art. They have excelled in words, where the attack on the receptor is emotional rather than physical. Probably more Englishmen are colour blind than Englishmen are not.

Of course, there are other visual impairments, this side of total blindness, which may manifest themselves in the arts. El Greco must have been astigmatic: the elongation of his figures points to it.

William Shakespeare was certainly short-sighted. When he describes stars in *Richard III*, these are always fringed in sparks: they are never clear points of light. When he observes nature, he observes it too closely, in the manner of the myope getting on to Kipling's poem *Rudyard*. Kipling and James Joyce and Alphonse Huxley were all partially sighted, and they all seem to be looking through microscopes. But I don't think we daltonians ever give our condition away in our art. We try to conform, and that perhaps is unwise.

Unwise, because to hide colour blindness is to evade a major philosophical issue. Is reality a matter of what the majority perceives? If I see a red apple while others see it as brown, who — except the majority — is to say that I am wrong? It may well be that the majority are colour blind, and only we few despised daltonians see the world as God made it.

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## Mrs Thatcher's basement nightclub

Police guarding the home of Mrs Thatcher in Fleet Street, told a source, thought they had arrested a would-be assassin when they stopped an Israeli the other night and found him in possession of a knife. Arye Salomon, aged 23, from Bat Yam, protested in vain that he thought the basement of the Prime Minister's home was, of all things, a nightclub. The knife, he added, was part of his camping kit — he was at the end of a hitchhiking tour of Europe after completing national service in Israel. It was only during a 30-minute interrogation at Chelsea police station that police began to believe his story. Salomon brandished his copy of Tommy Lapid's famous Israeli guide to Europe listing what appeared to be the PM's home as a nightclub. Lapid is director of Israeli state television and was once London correspondent of the Israeli newspaper, *Masruiv*. Saloman was ordered to carry on with his travels.

## Afterwords

The hangover competition, I must tell you, has been won hands-down by the Scandinavians. Trisha Vargis, of Richmond in Surrey, says: "It was very drunken out last night..." which, as she says, is a nice way of avoiding the blame. But William Moore, from Vantaa in Finland, has written to say that

the Finnish slang dictionary lists 29 entries for hangover (although that is modest when set alongside the 102 expressions for being drunk). Hangover slang includes: *luna tyynässä* ("snow in his pillow"), *luna kovan kovan* ("little smith"), *luna kovan kovan* ("little smith"), and the more serious *luna kovan kovan* ("glassbox"). Impressive. As Mr Moore's letter was I feel that Jeremy Geelan, from Aarhus in Denmark, and editor of *Logophile*, has just pipped him. He quotes from the magazine's own survey and includes: "From Burns — *gaungit*, which evokes 'that which, while it lasts, makes a man feel that the clapper of the heaviest temple bell for miles around is playing tunes on the inside of his skull'." Cuba and Venezuela — *rejon*, which literally means a "mouse". But is also an onomatopoeic rendering of the stomach and the head.

Spain and Portugal — *resaca*, which stands for the pounding of breakers on a rocky promontory, or *resaca*, which means to drip and suggests the overflowing of the wine from the head after too much.

*Flindafunssa* has to be the most musical of the bunch and the one I shall show off with from now on. But Mr Geelan wins the Veuve Clicquot.

Mr Peter Tatchell's views on "extra-parliamentary action" were well-publicized but, to someone of my moderate tendencies, still less than explicit. Last week, he

## THE TIMES DIARY

Brunch-talk in Washington yesterday was partly with deplorable eloquence in Poland, partly with the rumours that the ambassador to the Potomac is to retire and be replaced by Sir John Thompson, High Commissioner in Delhi. But the tastiest titbit was the news that President Reagan's favourite meal, crab meat and artichoke casserole, has been officially downgraded. The White House, over sensitive to charges of undue extravagance, has made the change after an unfortunate gaffe on the part of a minor aide.

Susan Benjamin, from Chicago, says, he told Mr Michael Foot that all he meant by the phrase "mass lobbying of the House of Commons" was that, over the weekend, however, when Mr Benn spoke about the affair for the first time, he called for more anti-government action outside Parliament and said: "We have to consider very seriously a policy of deliberate disengagement from the establishment of our society." Whatever these two statements meant, they would not seem to mean the same thing.

In fact, says Tatchell, who phoned me out of the blue, his views are in line with that grand old man of the Labour Party (and former Prime Minister) Clement Attlee. The would-be Labour

had written to the President begging him not to cut funds for the education of handicapped children. Like most people who write such letters, the Frenchman wrote in a very formal, glossy photograph and a standard reply. In her case, however, she got the wrong letter, the one about Ronald Reagan's favourite dish, which just happens to cost \$20 a portion.

Ms Benjamin made quite a fuss over the mistake, saying she was appalled that White House food should be that expensive when cabbages in other areas were hurting so much. So the White House has capitulated — and the new Presidential favourite is declared to be none other than macaroni and cheese — cost roughly \$2 a portion.

Party candidate for Bermondsey has been sent two quotes from an Attlee book, published by the Left Book Club in 1937. Tatchell thinks them worthy of wider circulation.

"While, as I have stated, the Labour Party is steadily opposed to tactics of revolutionary action and violence, and has always planned its faith to constitutional action, it has never ignored the possibility that occasions may arise when extra-parliamentary action may become necessary. If Labour cannot obtain a majority, it must as a minority accept the will of the majority. It may seek to influence that majority and those to whom it has entrusted power by other lawful means, but



The above cartoon was banned in Poland: even before yesterday's crackdown. It is by Andrzej Krauze, the Pole likened by George Mikles to Vicky. Krauze has had scores of his cartoons banned in Warsaw; others have been published only by *Solidarnosc*, Solidarity's own weekly. The artist is now in London on a visit to mark publication, by Nina Karow, of *Andrzej Krauze's Poland*, which contains 68 of his banned cartoons. Developments in Poland have caused Krauze even more foreboding than the rest of us, for, given his links with Solidarity, and that extension of censorship, he fears he will not be allowed back in his country for some time. You can help by buying his book.

take action which amounted to aggression leading to a war. It may be, then, right and necessary for a minority to take action, but it must be recognized that at that stage the method of constitutional action has been abandoned. A revolutionary situation may result."

Two comments: (1) Given time, as any journalist knows, you can almost always find a quotation to support any point of view; (2) The quotes do not do sound simply like lobbying Parliament.

## Too much!

The \$2.25 Paddington to Penzance express has no problem with its tilt, but it does have some Awfully Pernickety Train staff. When the watter went through the carriage the other day, making the other day, one traveller who, I am told, looked as if he might be a university lecturer, asked: "By the way, how much is your lunch these days?" The watter said: "The fact that you've asked, sir, means it's too much."

## Quiz answers

1. It was announced that Arthur Scargill had been elected the next President of the National Union of Mineworkers.
2. A 20-year-old motorcyclist drove on a 25-mile ride in protest at the compulsory wearing of crash helmets.
3. Mr Tony Forester's car, converted to run on gas, exploded last Monday night, causing the car, and much of his back and garage, to be destroyed.
4. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced that the Government was to fund the purchase of 100,000 copies of the country's flag.
5. The Monopoles Commission has urged European Ferries' limited bid for Sealink.
6. A 100-ton ship, the *Sealark*, was launched at the shipyard of the Sealink group.
7. The Spanish military authorities put 100 officers under house arrest for alleged criticism of the country's flag.
8. The University Council of the University of London has agreed to accept the Government's proposal to fund the purchase of 100,000 copies of the country's flag.
9. The Verity March was played on a quick tempo of snow at Twickenham last night.
10. A selection conference failed to decide whether or not Mr William Hamilton should represent the party in the constituency of the Central Fife constituency.
11. A 100-ton ship, the *Sealark*, was launched at the shipyard of the Sealink group.
12. A 100-ton ship, the *Sealark*, was launched at the shipyard of the Sealink group.
13. A 100-ton ship, the *Sealark*, was launched at the shipyard of the Sealink group.
14. A 100-ton ship, the *Sealark*, was launched at the shipyard of the Sealink group.
15. A 100-ton ship, the *Sealark*, was launched at the shipyard of the Sealink group.

Peter Watson





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## LIGHTS OUT IN WARSAW

General Jaruzelski is making one last desperate bid to save communist power in Poland. He has reached this point as a result of two major failures. The most important has been the failure of the party apparatus over the past fifteen months to seize the torch of reform and run forward with it. This would have been the only way of outbidding Solidarity or leadership of the nation. Instead, the party has had to be jostled forward, giving ground reluctantly at every point, thereby persuading the public that pressure must be continuously mobilized against it. The inevitable result has been that the party has gradually crumbled.

The second failure has been the failure of Solidarity to maintain its own coherence and discipline. This is a more forgivable failure because Solidarity was not created or organized to run the country. It came into existence as a trade union and protest movement whose aim was to put pressure on the government. Recently it has put too much pressure on the regime by demanding, among other things, free local elections in February, which the communists would certainly have lost. This was a failure of judgment but one which was almost inevitable when the movement found itself sucked into such a vast area of power vacated by the regime.

The army began to move into the vacuum some time ago. Now General Jaruzelski has gambled on something approaching a total occupation. Although he says in his proclamation that responsibility still rests with the civilian administration he seems in fact to be introducing military rule on a pattern familiar in other parts of the world — a "military council of national salvation" steps in

to save the nation from disaster while promising to restore political rule as soon as possible.

Will he succeed? At the moment it looks as if there is only one condition on which he can do so, and that is if he can persuade some moderate leaders of Solidarity to persuade the country that he really is more determined than the civilian rulers have ever been to preserve and develop the reforms. He implies in his proclamation that this is his aim. He has also hoisted an important signal by arresting Mr. Gierk, the former party leader, and some of his associates. This is a concession to a long-standing public demand that those responsible for the crisis should be brought to justice. It conveys the significant message that General Jaruzelski is not putting all the blame on Solidarity but is accepting that the party must take its share. Therefore party members must not interpret the new measures as an attempt to restore the status quo ante. Rather, the army will be a cleansing agent, sweeping through the inertia and corruption of the administration at the same time as putting down attempts to destroy the system from outside.

While many people would like to believe in this, scepticism is now deep in their bones. Even if Mr. Walesa can be persuaded to support the army it is far from certain that he will be listened to. Although he still has great popular appeal, the local organizations of Solidarity have been growing increasingly radical, and the population as a whole is weary, angry, frustrated and hungry. It is extremely difficult to predict how it will react. Over the past few years a new

element of pragmatic realism has seemed to be coming to the fore in Poland, but the old suicidal romanticism of the Poles has not vanished altogether. It could still drive resistance beyond the point of no return.

If it does, General Jaruzelski will surely feel obliged to use force. He has a profound antipathy towards doing so, but he would probably feel there was no choice. He would start by using the armed security police. They would probably be willing to shoot because they are specially trained and motivated for this type of work. They do not have the intimate contact with society which the conscript army has, and they probably see their future as more closely tied to the preservation of a certain type of regime. But there are not enough of them to put down nationwide resistance. Everything would therefore depend on whether a limited show of force would have an exemplary effect. If it did not, the next line of defence would be the army.

The country would then enter an area of even greater uncertainty. Most of the soldiers are ordinary Poles who share the experiences, aims and feelings of those against whom they would be asked to shoot. It is highly probable that they would not shoot. It is also well within the bounds of possibility that if the Russians moved in to do their dirty work they would be readier to shoot Russians than to shoot their own people. At this point the imagination begins to falter in the face of a disaster which might well move out of anyone's control. General Jaruzelski clearly believes that saving the regime is synonymous with saving the nation. That is now the central issue.

## TRUST THE PEOPLE

Mr Bruce Douglas-Mann, the MP for Merton, Mitcham and Morden, is following a somewhat well-trodden path in resigning from the Labour Party and seeking to join the Social Democrats. Twenty six other MPs have taken the same course before him. But he is unique in that he intends not just to move to the Social Democrats benches in the House of Commons, but then to resign his seat and fight a by-election.

This has upset the Social Democrats at both national and local level. He is thought to be rather presumptuous in taking it for granted that he would be the SDP candidate in a by-election. To make matters worse, he is suspected of blackmailing the party into accepting him as its candidate. But perhaps his most grievous sin is to be acting in a way that casts the founding fathers of the party in a less than heroic light. If Mr Douglas-Mann feels he is under an obligation to be freshly endorsed by the electorate before sitting in the Commons as an SDP member, why did the rest of them not go back to the voters when they set up the party earlier

this year? Could their appreciation of constitutional niceties possibly have been disturbed by the fear of defeat?

Mr Douglas-Mann's explanation is that he is acting differently because he starts from a different position. He fought the last election as an anti-Marketier, but now he believes that Britain should remain a member of the European Community. This is an issue of critical importance to the country and is one on which the SDP has placed particular emphasis. So there is some force in Mr Douglas-Mann's contention that he is changing more than his party. It would be wrong to be dogmatic about constitutional proprieties here. There are sufficient precedents to justify other Social Democrat MPs staying in the Commons, without bothering about by-elections, after crossing the floor. But other precedents support Mr Douglas-Mann. He is proposing to do precisely what Mr Ivarnne did at Lincoln in 1973. No MP should be deterred from taking the more rigorous line; indeed, he should always be encouraged.

David Wood

## A last look at Strasbourg

This week I take my leave of the European Parliament after attending to its affairs for nine years, and by chance the programme for the plenary part session (to use the official phrase) is uncommonly inviting. Mrs Thatcher will address the chamber on Wednesday and become only the second prime minister to do so during her country's presidency.

On Thursday, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, will report on the modest achievements and the more notable non-achievements of the Community during the United Kingdom's six-month presidency of the Council of Ministers. Much of the rest of the time will be spent on the Community's budget for 1982, the one area of decision where the parliament has authentic if limited power, at least in theory. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the campaign of Sir James Scott-Hopkins, Herr Egon Kleesch, and Mr Pieter Dankert to succeed Mme Simone Veil as president will reach their rather bitter climax.

In the nine years that have passed since Britain joined the Community, there have, of course, been three outstanding developments: the transformation of the old delegated parliament into a directly elected parliament in 1979, the beginning of the second wave of Community enlargement a year ago when Greece took its place and the beginning of the historic struggle for the parliament to control the Community purse by increasing its power over its budget proposed by the Commission and finally

settled by the Council of Ministers.

Since this is the crucial budget week, let us begin a retrospect by discussing Parliament's ability to settle, or influence, how Community resources are to be spent. It is astonishing to look back five years, to the arrival of Mr Christopher Tugendhat as a Brussels commissioner, and remember what a relatively uncontroversial subject parliament until then made of the budget. Indeed as a junior incoming commissioner, Mr Tugendhat was given the budget portfolio because all his seniors saw more scope for their abilities and ambitions elsewhere. Then, almost suddenly, the old nominated Parliament began to exploit a new opportunity. Parliament had won the power to reject the budget, lock stock and barrel, and a say about non-obligatory spending.

Unfortunately, like the other scant formal powers of the parliament, it was an unusable or self-defeating ultimate deterrent. If Parliament defied the Council of Ministers and threw out the budget, it merely meant that the Community lived from month to month on the basis of the preceding year's budget, according to the "twelfth" rule. And parliament was fighting to increase spending, especially on social and regional policies, usually at the expense of the Common Agricultural Policy, which is earmarked as compulsory expenditure. Nevertheless, every budget since 1978 has been bitterly contested by parliament, and one was actually rejected (though ineffectually).

The struggle will continue this year, with the parliament trying to add to community expenditure, and the Council of Ministers cutting back. The Council look like winning in the end once more. In Strasbourg this week it may be all sound and fury signifying little, but not quite nothing.

It is fair to say that the European Parliament will not count of age and be capable of helping to promote the grand

Mr Douglas-Mann should have no automatic right to be the SDP candidate in a by-election, but there is a presumption that a sitting MP who transfers to the party before the end of this year will be the candidate next time. It has been agreed with the Liberals that those who are sitting as Liberal or SDP members at the beginning of 1982 will be recognised as alliance candidates provided they are adopted by their respective parties; and the draft SDP constitution specifies that a general meeting of the area party shall be called to decide if a sitting member should be endorsed. If he is rejected then there shall be a ballot of all members of the area party.

It would be reasonable for Mr Douglas-Mann to be asked at such a meeting whether, if he were not chosen, he would support another SDP candidate. But he has a better claim to represent the Social Democrats than some others who have preceded him into the party. The SDP would have most to gain and least to lose by endorsing him. They should give him full support in a by-election.

Europeanist policies it so fondly talks about, until it wins more power over the Community purse. Yet there are Europeanists, as well as the growing number of cynicism, who would look askance at any such objective.

The national governments of the Ten, not least West Germany and the United Kingdom, are never slow to grieve that financially there are winners and losers within the Community, and the losers are never going to allow Strasbourg to increase a domestic tax burden that they themselves are trying to curb or cut. It would be a brave Europeanist politician who set out to argue that French MEPs should have the right to levy taxes on the British, or vice versa. Taxation, like charity, begins at home.

Nor is it a simple answer, often though it is heard in Strasbourg, to say that desirable urban industrial and social policies should be financed out of savings on the costs of the CAP. For the French and Irish Republics the CAP itself, despite its anomalies and distortions, is a social and regional policy, though less so now than when farmers were first given the lion's share of Community resources. Beyond that, Sir Henry Plumb, former president of the MEPU and now chairman of the Parliamentary agricultural committee, can show with chapter and verse that leaving aside overseas aid, CAP expenditure represents not 70 per cent, as is usually claimed, but less than 50 per cent of the Community budget.

All in all, the last nine years in Strasbourg have made me marvel at the anti-Marketier's wireless protests against a delusory loss of domestic sovereignty to Europe. Sovereignty still resides in the men forming the Council of Ministers. If necessary wielding their power of veto; and the European parliament, growing increasingly as it has, is still only at the beginning of a long, long trail a winding onto the land of Europeanist dreams.

## Communion with Rome?

From the Bishop of Birmingham  
Sir, The letter of Bishops Moorman and Knapp-Fisher (December 5) deserves some response. It is indeed true that "we should become, and be seen to be, one Church", although happily it is not that Christians now "constitute but a small part of the world's population". It is, however, just as important that Christians should be, and be seen to be, people of integrity who are dedicated to the truth as they understand it. On this vital aspect of the Christian life the bishops are strangely silent.

With others I do not believe (and I would hold that the evidence is on our side) that the Bishop of Rome can properly lay claim to infallibility. I do not believe that he can legitimately lay claim to universal jurisdiction. I do not believe that the Virgin Mary bodily ascended to heaven. The three reports of the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission, following on the Malta report, show a very striking convergence of belief between the two Communions on other doctrines, but not on these (although I note that the findings of the Malta report have been officially endorsed by the Roman Catholic Church).

Like others, I yearn for closer communion with my Roman Catholic brothers and sisters with whom so much is in common that what holds us apart. But how can I deny what I believe to be true? It would be equally wrong for Roman Catholics to be asked to deny what they hold to be true, and the present Pope has to date shown much liking for doctrinal pluralism, however well-founded some of us may think this to be in our New Testament sources.

I hope and pray that the eagerly awaited final report of the ARCIC will find some honourable way out of this apparent impasse. But to suggest that we "postpone entering into agreements with other churches" (with whom we have had far closer relationships over the centuries than with the Roman Church) because these "would inevitably draw us away from what is bound to be the coming great church" is an extraordinary statement, on two counts.

First, if Rome is already having discussions with Methodist and other churches with a view to "establishing that one great church to which we all look", why should our prior agreement with them be a hindrance to its coming? Secondly, the theological implications of any projected agreement with the Roman Church are of less account than the more fundamental differences between Rome and Canterbury on papal and Marian dogmas.

Yours faithfully,  
THOMAS BIRMINGHAM,  
Bishop of Birmingham,  
Old Church Road,  
Harborne,  
Birmingham,  
December 6.

## Bukovsky view

From Mr David Markham

Sir, I should like to comment briefly on my friend Vladimir Bukovsky's article (December 4) "Better Red than dead is not good enough".

Because of Soviet infiltration into some peace groups, he seems to suggest that the entire peace movement is phoney. Only the life-long pacifists, as distinct from what he calls "frightened people" and "peace-lovers", will not feel injured and offended by Vladimir's angry strictures: he has the nerve to be angry and suspicious about Soviet propaganda — by no means confined to the peace movement — as I know from my own experience in the past.

The threatened use of genocidal weapons is morally indefensible and practically senseless.

Both sides know this and both sides cling to it. Meanwhile, the civilian populations are black-mailed into a resigned acceptance of the inevitable. Only the peace-lovers, on both sides, who have nothing to lose but their lives, can avert the terrible results of their own governments' folly.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MARKHAM,  
Cottage,  
Colchester Road,  
Hartfield, Sussex.

## Science and Darwin

From Dr David Ridge

Sir, The Evolutionist versus Creationist debate shows all signs of getting out of hand through imprecise use of terms. Sir Fred Hoyle (feature, December 7) may well be right that the State of Arkansas defines "evolution science" as strict Darwinism, but a lot has been learned since Darwin's time. Evolution, as contrasted with Special Creation, means descent with modification; it means the production of new species from old species by small steps. It means no more.

How small is small? What constitutes a new species? Is natural variation enough to produce sufficient change? Can larger changes be directed by external (or internal) factors? These are questions for rational debate, illuminated by the findings of systematic study.

Only by the diversity of living things is matched only by my wonder at the uniformity of the molecular mechanisms by which they all work. It smacks of a paucity of imagination in any supposed creator.

Karl Popper's definitions (Mr Leslie Combs, Dec 7) are, as usual, complete red herrings.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID RIDGE,  
3 Countess Road,  
London NW5,  
December 7.

## Mapping constituency boundaries

From the Secretary to the Boundary Commission for England

Sir, It may be that unintentionally Dr Marshall has misled some of our readers by his letter published on December 10. He states that the Government has been "using every opportunity to accelerate the current review by the Boundary Commission". The facts are that the commission is independent and has been acting completely independently without any pressure of any description from the Government. The following comments may therefore be helpful.

The commission uses words as its building blocks and has hence been dependent upon the completion of the reviews of the Local Government Boundary Commission. As is common knowledge their work was severely interrupted by the Barfield litigation and in consequence so was the work of this commission. Accordingly this commission is in any event well behind the schedule it had originally set itself.

It may be relevant to recall that under the legislation applicable to the commission works upon electoral quotas and electorates determined at the time of the investigation of the review, in the new case 576. It is obvious that the longer their review now takes the more likely it is to be completely out of date before it even comes into effect.

The number of staff in the secretariat of the English Commission has been increased recently, because there has been more work to be done. The last Order implementing revisions to the district wards following the Local Government Boundary Commission's reviews was made in February 1981 and the number of counties being reviewed in the first instance. Ideally parliamentary constituencies, like local government areas, should correspond to natural social and political units. Indeed Parliament has partially recognised this principle in requiring the commissioners not to have constituencies straddling shire boundaries. The closer a constituency corresponds to its natural society then the closer will its member or members identify with it.

Unfortunately (except in a few cases) this is not possible with the present single-member constituencies while at the same time complying with the other important principle of broadly equal electorates per member.

Both these desirable features — avoiding boundary changes and having "natural" constituencies — can be achieved through multi-member constituencies.

Yours faithfully,  
TOM ELLIS,  
House of Commons,  
December 10.

## Engineering courses

From Professor Carl Hanson

Sir, I read with interest the letter from Mr Douglas Doughty which appeared in your issue of December 4 but am concerned that this may give the impression of all undergraduate sandwich courses in engineering facing imminent disaster.

As one who has been responsible over many years for the operation of a thin sandwich course with a large intake, I would fully support his comments on the benefits of this form of engineering education and its popularity amongst both students and industry. I also appreciate how demoralising it must be for potential students when they experience great difficulty in securing sponsorship where this is required in order to follow such a course. However, I think there are two points which should be drawn to the attention of your readers.

Firstly, when seeking sponsorship at the start of a course one is asking an employer to take on a commitment for a four-year period, something which is obviously a problem at a time of great uncertainty. Secondly, it should be made clear that many departments do not expect students to obtain sponsorship.

Thus, in the case of my own

finding assistant commissioners who were free from other commitments to hold local inquiries and the number appointed was therefore recently brought back up to the number who were originally appointed.

The Home Office Ministers have not set this commission a target date for submitting its report. This commission has long been aware of the anomalies created when the local government boundaries were reorganised in 1974 and of the large disparities between the electorates of the present constituencies. The commission therefore wish to report as soon as possible, and the earliest possible date appears to be at the end of 1982.

Yours faithfully,  
G. P. RARNES,  
Secretary,  
Boundary Commission for England,  
St Catherine's House,  
10 Kingsway, WC2.

From Mr Tom Ellis, MP for Wrexham (Social Democrat)

Sir, The charge of undue governmental pressure on the Boundary Commission (Dr Edmund Marshall, MP, Letter, December 10) is an example of the wrangling if not the allegations of gerrymandering which always seem to accompany the periodic constituency boundary reviews. An electoral system which would avoid the need for boundary changes would have much to commend it.

However, an even more unsatisfactory feature of the boundaries aspect of our electoral system is the artificiality with which the boundaries are drawn in the first instance. Ideally parliamentary constituencies, like local government areas, should correspond to natural social and political units. Indeed Parliament has partially recognised this principle in requiring the commissioners not to have constituencies straddling shire boundaries. The closer a constituency corresponds to its natural society then the closer will its member or members identify with it.

Unfortunately (except in a few cases) this is not possible with the present single-member constituencies while at the same time complying with the other important principle of broadly equal electorates per member.

Both these desirable features — avoiding boundary changes and having "natural" constituencies — can be achieved through multi-member constituencies.

Yours faithfully,  
TOM ELLIS,  
House of Commons,  
December 10.

## Far from clear

From Mr John Boulton

Sir, Concerning the query about ice cubes in plastic bags (December 4) the following simple experiment was performed:

Four plastic film bags, two clear, two opaque, and one of each kind perforated with pinholes, were loaded each with six ice cubes and left in the deep freeze for 20 hours. The result was: clear film, cubes stuck solid. Clear film pinholes, cubes separate or easily separated. Opaque film, cubes stuck solid. Opaque film pinholes, cubes easily separated.

Repeated in the kitchen refrigerator the experiment gave the same answers as in the deep freeze.

The bags used appear to be made of polyethylene film. What result might be given by any other of the film-forming substances which might be used for making freezer bags is not known. But, clearly, the coalescence of cubes kept frozen in a bag does not depend upon the opacity of the bags used; it would appear to depend upon the accessibility of air through perforations.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,

JOHN BOULTON,  
18 Lillingdon Avenue,  
Leamington Spa,  
Warwickshire.

## May not sign

From Mr H. Lal

Sir, With reference to the letter from Dr Paramjit Singh (December 8), a practising dentist I have signed passport application forms for persons known to me for more than two years and after my signature I have added in parentheses (Indian subject). The passport authorities have always accepted my signature and the last application form signed by me was less than two months ago. I remain, yours faithfully,  
HARRIS LAL,  
242 Finchley Road, NW3.

## Never on Monday

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, A recent delivery of almanacs reveals that my printer has embraced the irritating trend of now showing the first day of the week as Monday.

However, some small redemption was obtained when he agreed to accept payment by the middle of the following week.

I settled up on Thursday.  
Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT VINCENT,  
Dilly House,  
Wildern,  
Hampshire,  
December 4.

## Playing rugby in the snow

From the Secretary of the Rugby Football Union

Sir, I wish to refer to the Sports Editor's article on December 10 in which he criticises the Rugby Football Union for failing to clear the pitch on Tuesday for the Varsity Match.

It indicates a remarkable lack of understanding of the problems and is typical of one who has no responsibility for whatever action is taken.

Also have an advantage over Mr Keith in that I have the advice of some of the most experienced and knowledgeable groundstaff in the country. I was on the pitch at 6.15 am soon after the snow started and at first there was every hope that the large wet flakes of snow which were falling would melt quickly and all would be well. Unfortunately, it became colder and by 9 am there were two inches of solid snow on the pitch.

A lengthy consultation with the Meteorological Office established that the snow would continue until 11.30 am and the temperature would drop still further. They proved right and by 12 noon there was four to five inches of snow on the pitch and the temperature was well below freezing.

The parts of the ground which had been cleared to expose the lines was hardening and there was a danger that exposing more ground would result in an unplayable pitch.

It will be recalled that this happened in 1952 when a similar situation arose prior to the England v Ireland match and after clearing half the pitch it was discovered that it was rapidly becoming frozen and possibly unplayable. However, the match was completed with half the pitch under snow and the other half a frozen slippery and dangerous surface.

The case of the Vale of Llangrann is entirely different and Wrexham did have 24 hours in which to decide what to do and even then it took 60 men six hours to clear it.

It is calculated that there was over 400 tons of snow on the playing surface at Twickenham on Tuesday, a somewhat daunting task for the hundreds of volunteers which he offers. Furthermore, to use his words, his imagination obviously does not stretch to how one gets rid of the snow once it has been "worked towards the middle". I would suggest that the damage caused to the pitch by these willing enthusiasts would have rendered it unplayable for some time.

I believe that we took the correct action and witnessed a most exciting match with the players on both sides deserving every credit for playing the quality of football they did in appalling conditions.

Yours faithfully,  
R. H. G. WEIGHILL, Secretary,  
The Rugby Football Union,  
Twickenham,  
December 11.

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ROBERT VINCENT,  
Dilly House,  
Wildern,  
Hampshire,  
December 4.







# INTRODUCING SOBRANIE VIRGINIA BLEND

CIGARETTES OF INTERNATIONAL LENGTH  
BY SOBRANIE OF LONDON



SB07

LOW TO MIDDLE TAR Manufacturer's estimate

DANGER: H.M. Government Health Departments' WARNING:  
THINK FIRST-MOST DOCTORS DON'T SMOKE



# Stock Exchange Prices Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 7; Dealings End, Dec 22; Contango Day, Dec 23; Settlement Day, Jan 4

Forward bargains are per initiated on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

Stock	Price	Chgs	Grav	Div	Cap	Company	Price	Chgs	Grav	Div	Cap	Company	Price	Chgs	Grav	Div	Cap	Company	Price	Chgs	Grav	Div	Cap	Company
standing																								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>BRITISH FUNDS</b>																								
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130000	135000	140000	145000	150000	155000	160000	165000	170000	175000	180000	185000	190000	195000	200000	205000	210000	215000	220000	225000	230000	235000	240000	245000	250000
250000	255000	260000	265000	270000	275000	280000	285000	290000	295000	300000	305000	310000	315000	320000	325000	330000	335000	340000	345000	350000	355000	360000	365000	370000
375000	380000	385000	390000	395000	400000	405000	410000	415000	420000	425000	430000	435000	440000	445000	450000	455000	460000	465000	470000	475000	480000	485000	490000	495000
500000	505000	510000	515000	520000	525000	530000	535000	540000	545000	550000	555000	560000	565000	570000	575000	580000	585000	590000	595000	600000	605000	610000	615000	620000
625000	630000	635000	640000	645000	650000	655000	660000	665000	670000	675000	680000	685000	690000	695000	700000	705000	710000	715000	720000	725000	730000	735000	740000	745000
750000	755000	760000	765000	770000	775000	780000	785000	790000	795000	800000	805000	810000	815000	820000	825000	830000	835000	840000	845000	850000	855000	860000	865000	870000
875000	880000	885000	890000	895000	900000	905000	910000	915000	920000	925000	930000	935000	940000	945000	950000	955000	960000	965000	970000	975000	980000	985000	990000	995000
1000000	1005000	1010000	1015000	1020000	1025000	1030000	1035000	1040000	1045000	1050000	1055000	1060000	1065000	1070000	1075000	1080000	1085000	1090000	1095000	1100000	1105000	1110000	1115000	1120000
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1375000	1380000	1385000	1390000	1395000	1400000	1405000	1410000	1415000	1420000	1425000	1430000	1435000	1440000	1445000	1450000	1455000	1460000	1465000	1470000	1475000	1480000	1485000	1490000	1495000
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1625000	1630000	1635000	1640000	1645000	1650000	1655000	1660000	1665000	1670000	1675000	1680000	1685000	1690000	1695000	1700000	1705000	1710000	1715000	1720000	1725000	1730000	1735000	1740000	1745000
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1875000	1880000	1885000	1890000	1895000	1900000	1905000	1910000	1915000	1920000	1925000	1930000	1935000	1940000	1945000	1950000	1955000	1960000	1965000	1970000	1975000	1980000	1985000	1990000	1995000
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2250000	2255000	2260000	2265000	2270000	2275000	2280000	2285000	2290000	2295000	2300000	2305000	2310000	2315000	2320000	2325000	2330000	2335000	2340000	2345000	2350000	2355000	2360000	2365000	2370000
2375000	2380000	2385000	2390000	2395000	2400000	2405000	2410000	2415000	2420000	2425000	2430000	2435000	2440000	2445000	2450000	2455000	2460000	2465000	2470000	2475000	2480000	2485000	2490000	2495000
2500000	2505000	2510000	2515000	2520000	2525000	2530000	2535000	2540000	2545000	2550000	2555000	2560000	2565000	2570000	2575000	2580000	2585000	2590000	2595000	2600000	2605000	2610000	2615000	2620000
2625000	2630000	2635000	2640000	2645000	2650000	2655000	2660000	2665000	2670000	2675000	2680000	2685000	2690000	2695000	2700000	2705000	2710000	2715000	2720000	2725000	2730000	2735000	2740000	2745000
2750000	2755000	2760000	2765000	2770000	2775000	2780000	2785000	2790000	2795000	2800000	2805000	2810000	2815000	2820000	2825000	2830000	2835000	2840000	2845000	2850000	2855000	2860000	2865000	2870000
2875000	2880000	2885000	2890000	2895000	2900000	2905000	2910000	2915000	2920000	2925000	2930000	2935000	2940000	2945000	2950000	2955000	2960000	2965000	2970000	2975000	2980000	2985000	2990000	2995000
3000000	3005000	3010000	3015000	3020000	3025000	3030000	3035000	3040000	3045000	3050000	3055000	3060000	3065000	3070000	3075000	3080000	3085000	3090000	3095000	3100000	3105000	3110000	3115000	3120000
3125000	3130000	3135000	3140000	3145000	3150000	3155000	3160000	3165000	3170000	3175000	3180000	3185000	3190000	3195000	3200000	3205000	3210000	3215000	3220000	3225000	3230000	3235000	3240000	3245000
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3625000	3630000	3635000	3640000	3645000	3650000	3655000	3660000	3665000	3670000	3675000	3680000	3685000	3690000	3695000	3700000	3705000	3710000	3715000	3720000	3725000	3730000	3735000	3740000	3745000
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4125000	4130000	4135000	4140000	4145000	4150000	4155000	4160000	4165000	4170000	4175000	4180000	4185000	4190000	4195000	4200000	4205000	4210000	4215000	4220000	4225000	4230000	4235000	4240000	4245000
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4625000	4630000	4635000	4640000	4645000	4650000	4655000	4660000	4665000	4670000	4675000	4680000	4685000	4690000	4695000	4700000	4705000	4710000	4715000	4720000	4725000	4730000	4735000	4740000	4745000



Frittering away  
the riches of  
N Sea, page 15

# Business News

THE TIMES Monday December 14 1981

**FABRICATION  
& ASSEMBLY**  
Machines/Steel structures.  
From wood burning stoves to 80 ton trailers.  
From the smallest to complete buildings.  
**Stanmill Company Ltd.**  
Winchburn, Leeds.  
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## Lonrho still in market for Fraser

By Anthony Hilton

Lonrho appears not to have given up all hope of taking over House of Fraser, the store chain which owns Harrods, in spite of a Monopolies Commission veto on the deal last week.

Speaking on BBC television's Money Programme yesterday, Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, said that his company intended to retain its 30 per cent shareholding in Fraser.

He said Lonrho might consider taking action to meet the criticisms of the company listed in the report.

By implication this could clear the way for Lonrho to come back to the market again to acquire House of Fraser.

Against this, however, Mr Spicer said Lonrho would give any undertakings it was required to give, to the Government, that it would not seek to acquire control of House of Fraser. But this is a grey area because it remains unclear how far the Government can go, and what it can "require" Lonrho to do.

Mr Spicer also said Lonrho had no intention of increasing its influence either directly or indirectly, but he would not be surprised if a Middle Eastern or American buyer snapped up 5 to 7 per cent of the company in the next few weeks and used this to wield effective control.

Talks will be held later this week with Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Consumer Affairs Secretary, who said in the same programme that the Government would "do what was right to carry out the recommendations of the Monopolies Commission".

Mrs Oppenheim said that employment, foreign competition, management and other factors as well as efficiency, all influenced the commission.

## Crisis ahead for public spending plan

By David Blake

A new public-spending crisis is building up over the Government's attempt to plan its medium-term expenditure in cash using unrealistic inflation forecasts. Capital spending programmes, which have to be drawn up in advance, have been thrown into confusion by the switch, which began this year, to the new inflation forecasts. The problems have been highlighted in the past few days by the pay settlement for local government workers, which shows that inflation in the public sector is likely to be far higher in 1982-83 than the Government hoped.

Work is now getting under way to draw up public-spending plans up to 1985. But as a result of a radical rethink in the way the Government decides its spending decisions, officials are not being allowed to use the "funny money" of constant prices which has ruled since the early sixties.

Instead, they have been told that they must draw up plans in cash terms on the assumption that inflation in the public sector will be 6 per cent in 1983-84 and 5 per cent in 1984-85.

Officials in Whitehall see no sign that these inflation forecasts will be met or that the Government has any serious intention of trying to meet them. The six per cent figure for 1983-84 is thought to be particularly unrealistic.

Because the old system of drawing up medium-term plans in "constant prices" has been abandoned as part of the move to cash control, the Government has no coherent way of keeping a check on what it is intending to do in these circumstances. There are signs that some spending departments, such as the health service, feel that matters have reached such a state of chaos that they are committing themselves to ambitious programmes now in the hope that, when the crunch comes from 1983 onwards, there will be money found somehow to pick up the bill.

The problems caused by cash-planning are reawakening interest in the Treasury in the idea that some sort of volume planning ought to be done.

A sign of the problems of using cash-planning over even very short periods came late last week with the news that local authority manual workers had reached an agreement giving them pay rises of nearly 7 per cent. This is far higher than the 4 per cent which the Government hopes will be the average increase in the public service sector.

If repeated throughout the public sector, the local authorities' settlement would mean cuts in the volume of public-spending of about 1 to 1½ per cent to hold its cash value to the £115,000m figure agreed by Government.

Officials in Whitehall feel that the 6 per cent assumption for inflation in the public spending estimates in 1983-84 is more an example of the Government feeling that it has no choice but to come down than a serious forecast of what will happen.

They feel that trying to draw up spending plans on that basis will be doubly damaging. It will mean that spending in "constant prices" will be cut seriously because they will think that they are based on unsustainable inflation forecasts.

There is also the risk of a new battle over public spending levels next August as the Cabinet adjusts the cash totals up in the light of higher inflation forecasts.

## £25m trading deficit in forecast Shipbuilders set to cut losses

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

State-owned British Shipbuilders expects to cut its losses this year to less than £25m. This compares with a £110m deficit two years ago.

Confirmation that the company expects to remain inside the Government set trading loss limit of £25m this year was given by Mr Robert Atkinson, chairman, when he announced a first-half loss of £7m.

Last year Shipbuilders recorded a trading loss of £41.4m, before intervention fund allocation, the subsidy provided by the Government to narrow the gap between United Kingdom and foreign yard prices.

The continuing reduction of losses will be seized on by ministers as further vindication of their policies aimed at securing greater efficiency in the state industry sector.

Next year, the company is forecasting that its trading losses will be trimmed still further—to around £10m—and the following year the chairman believes it will achieve a financial break-even with a provisional trading loss of possibly £700,000. Mr Atkinson has already indicated that in 1984-85 the Government can expect to receive a repayment on its public dividend capital.

The corporation is still involved in talks with Mr Patrick Jenkin, Industry Secretary, over its next corporate plan. Provisionally the Government has allocated an External Financing Limit (EFL) of £125m for next year compared with £150m this year.

There are still uncertainties over the reduction in the flow of orders for the Royal Navy announced in this summer's defence review.

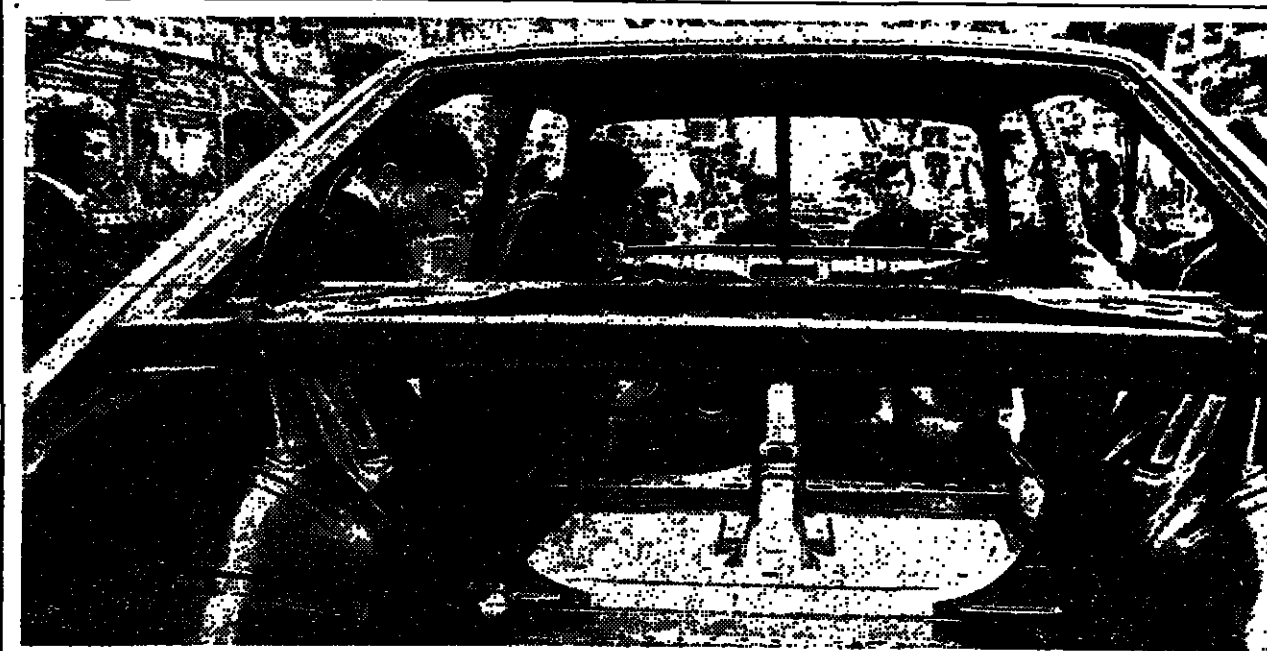
Mr Atkinson and his fellow directors are urging the Government to advance an order for the new Type 23 frigate and to launch a co-ordinated warship selling campaign overseas. Failure to win new warship contracts from the Royal Navy and from foreign governments could threaten jobs in the specialist warship yards by next autumn.

Despite the potential problems on the warship front, the corporation's merchant order book has now risen to its largest since 1978 and valued at close on £800m.

Over the past few months there has been a steady flow of new orders and Mr Atkinson is particularly pleased that a number of new contracts have been placed by former customers of United Kingdom yards who deserted the industry for foreign yards in the 1960s.

The improved financial performance follows the shedding of thousands of jobs since nationalisation four years ago.

Productivity last year rose by 15 per cent compared with 1979-80 and industrial disputes in merchant yards have been virtually eliminated.



Alfa Romeo workers on the production line

## Alfa Romeo plans four-month shutdown in 1982

From John Earle, Rome, Dec 13

Alfa Romeo, Italy's second biggest car manufacturer after Fiat, plans to be idle for four months next year, cutting output from its capacity of 280,000 to 180,000.

Signor Ettore Massacesi, chairman of the state-owned company, said it "had its back to the wall" and would throughout 1982 work for two months, then close for one month, then resume for a further two months.

In this way one third of production would be lost. During the idle periods, 2,000 people would be retained to man the offices and administrative services and to maintain plants. In addition, he said in an interview with the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica*, 7,000 workers would be suspended for the whole year.

The group, with its main plants at Milan and Naples, employs 35,000 in its car sector. It made a small profit of Lire 1,000m (about £430,000) in 1980, when it produced 222,000 cars, but is expected to be heavily in loss this year.

Signor Massacesi said without considering the effects of the market crisis in the western world, he reckoned that inflation alone would cost the company more than Lire 200,000m (£87m) since it did not manage to make its sales prices keep pace with Italian inflation.

Signor Massacesi said he felt tempted to say that there was no future for Alfa Romeo, as the crisis was so enormous. But in fact he thought there was "a half future", thanks to its alliances with other manufacturers. In south Italy it is setting up a plant to produce a new model with Nissan, while in the north it is engaged in talks with Fiat on collaboration over manufacture of components and rationalization of activities.

## BIG RISE IN OUTPUT DISPUTED

By Melvyn Westlake

The Government's claim that a big boost to Britain's productivity is providing the foundation for lasting economic recovery is challenged today by a senior City economist.

There is he says, little evidence of a "productivity miracle" and any gains seen in the last few years will probably be reversed during the next economic upswing.

In an article in *The Economist*, published by stockbrokers Simon and Coates, economist Mr Gavin Davies says productivity in the current recession has been no better than in the recession of 1974-75 and much worse than in 1970-72.

His analysis also shows that, though there was a big and almost constant rise in productivity between 1970 and 1975, more than half this gain was reversed by 1979.

The shakeout this time has been only about half of that between 1970 and 1975.

## Price freeze call by steel customers

By Our Industrial Editor

Opposition is growing among customers to the planned round of co-ordinated price increases by European steel makers.

Steel users and processors are demanding a freeze on increases of 5 per cent, due to be imposed in March and June next year. They have also called for greater consultation with the EEC Commission and steel makers on future price increases.

Representatives of steel users and processors of the European Coal and Steel Community's consultative committee, angered by the lack of consultation over the 17½ per cent increases of 1979, have lodged an informal statement deploring the commission's handling of the pricing issue.

The co-ordinated listing of prices by members of the European steel makers' cartel in three stages next year represents the key element in the commission's attempt to restore steel industry profitability and to eliminate continuing overcapacity. Customer industries have already strongly opposed both scale and speed.

In their statement to the consultative committee, user industry representatives called for a freeze on the 5 per cent increases, due to be introduced after the 12½ per cent rise implemented next January. They had previously proposed the January increase be either postponed or substantially trimmed.

The steel industry's customers also want a moratorium on related increases in the cost of steel products extras and have proposed a new framework, which would involve detailed discussions between the commission, producers and users and processors well in advance of future price movements.

Mr John Safford, director of the British Iron and Steel Manufacturers Council, said: "We do not want to have difficulties with the producers and the commission, but if they continue to treat us in such a cavalier fashion, we shall continue to make strong protests".

## Government set to extend De Lorean guarantee

By David Hewson

Motor industry sources now believe the De Lorean car company will receive an extension of a £10m loan guarantee from the Northern Ireland Office.

A Government announcement, probably in the form of a reply to a written question from a backbencher, is expected within 10 days. It is likely to give the firm breathing space over £10m of loan guarantees from the Government.

But it is not yet known if the Northern Ireland Office will agree to De Lorean's request for a further £5m in public support, which would bring the total to £15m.

The plea for an extension of the loan guarantees, which runs out on December 31, is being considered by the Northern Ireland Office in the knowledge that refusal would throw the future of the firm into jeopardy just when it is starting to get off the ground.

The company employs more than 2,000 people in an area of Belfast where unemployment is high. Industry observers do not believe that the Government, which has spent so heavily on De Lorean, would close the firm for want of an extended loan guarantee.

## PLEA FOR CLOTHING EXPORTS

By Rupert Morris

The British clothing industry must anticipate changing trends and export more, with trading support from Government and financial support from banks, the National Economic Development Council says today.

Competitiveness remains one of the industry's strengths, earning it a £22m trade surplus with the rest of the EEC in 1980, the NEDC reports.

A production drop of 12 per cent in 1980, and the loss of 40,000 jobs in the year ending March 1981 are attributed to three main factors: imports from low-wage countries, low growth and sudden surges in United Kingdom demand, and restrictions in access to overseas markets.

Low-cost imports will remain a problem, and British firms will have to respond by finding new markets overseas.

Basel Feldman, chairman of the clothing EDC promises in a summary of the report entitled "Rally for Success" that the EDC will concentrate on developing market trends in the future.

Claims that the introduction of microelectronics has a big impact on employment are not generally justified, according to a report published today by the Policy Studies Institute in London.

The study is the fourth and final part of a nationwide survey of 1,200 manufacturers. More than 70 per cent of the silicon chip users in the sample said the introduction of microelectronics had caused no significant change in employment and 60 per cent expected no impact within the next 18 months.

In companies where there had been an increase or decrease in jobs, the changes were usually less than 10 per cent. Only 1 per cent of the sample had experienced an increase or decrease of more than 40 per cent.

The survey, which was undertaken by Jim Northcott and Petra Rogers with Anthony Zeilinger, did detect an interesting difference between establishments using microelectronics for industrial processes and those installing chips in products.

Among the former, job losses were three times more frequent than job gains. The proportion was reversed among companies with product applications, where three times more companies increased employment. The overall effect was a small net decline because process applications are much more common.

When manufacturers are asked what are the most important constraints holding up the introduction of microelectronics, they rank the lack of skilled manpower more often than all other problems combined. The people in shortest supply are engineers with microelectronics expertise. The report estimates that Britain needs about 40 per cent more of these engineers immediately.

**Microelectronics in Industry:** Manpower and Training is available from PSI, 1 Castle Lane, London SW1E 6DR, at £5.00.

## Investment boost for genetic engineering

By Our Industrial Editor

Two important investment initiatives in the fast-expanding field of biotechnology are planned by the British Technology Group.

A link-up with a large City institution will be announced today and a second project still being discussed may be announced in a few weeks' time.

Today's expected announcement from the BTG, formed as a result of a de facto merger between the National Enterprise Board and the National Research Development Corporation, will involve the creation of a new venture to exploit Britain's growing expertise in genetic engineering.

Funding by BTG and its City partner will be directed at speeding up development of a small, fast-growing company virtually unknown outside its specialist field. It is understood the company has established a world technological lead in the production of human and animal proteins for medical use.

Initial investment will total several million pounds.

The venture is the second significant move by the BTG to form joint partnerships with industry and private sector sources of finance to exploit British advances in biotechnology.

The first was the formation of Britain's first biotechnology company, Celltech, which has been backed by the NEB in partnership with Prudential Assurance, the Midland Bank and British & Commonwealth Shipping.

This partnership has given Celltech access to the laboratory and expertise of the Medical Research Council. Discussions are taking place between the BTG and other potential partners aimed at establishing another consortium similar to Celltech to exploit the technological expertise of the Agricultural Research Council. Announcement of that venture could be made early in the New Year.

Under the chairmanship of industrialist Sir Frederick Wood, the BTG is required by the Government to play a catalytic role in the promotion of high-risk high-technology projects with private sector partners.

## Goods ban report due

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on TI Raleigh Industries' refusal to supply bicycles to some cut-price retailers will be published this week. The case is the first investigation under the new Competition Act to run its full course and will be watched by other sectors where discount shops have been refused supplies.

Limitations on supplies have been reported in a wide variety of goods including jewellery, perfume and cosmetics, sports equipment, chinaware and glassware.

□ An American Government sale of oil and gas leases in Alaska, due to take place on Wednesday, has been postponed until next month because of uncertainties among bidders over the antitrust laws.

## BUSINESS BRIEFING



## Policy chief for CBI

Sir Austin Pearce, above, chairman of British Aerospace, is to be chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's industrial policy committee. Sir Austin, 60, succeeds Sir Campbell Fraser, chairman of Dunlop, in the new year. He brings to the job the unusual experience of having chaired

## Respect rules, steel told

The European Economic Community is to ask European steel companies to respect the American tariff rules fully and the American Government will ask its industry to postpone filing complaints of anti-dumping.

It was understood unofficially yesterday to be the main result of trade talks between the American Government and the EEC which ended in Brussels on Saturday.

Earlier, Mr Roy Denman, the EEC director-general of external relations, said the two sides had agreed on efforts to make the trigger-price mechanism function better, but said the Americans did not promise to put pressure on their producers. The two sides had rejected any form of voluntary restraint.

Mr Denman said the two sides had also agreed on the need to negotiate a new multi-fibre arrangement by the end of the year though they were far apart on the need to persuade Japan to open its markets to imports.

## GEC links with Telecom

British Telecom has signed an agreement with GEC for the world-wide marketing of its Prestel teletext software, to run from January 1.

Mr Richard Hooper, chief executive of information services at British Telecom, said: "Here is another good example of a public-private sector partnership. Viewdata was invented a decade ago at British Telecom's research laboratories. It has been taken up and exploited vigorously by British industry yielding overseas exports in excess of £30m to date."

The link between Telecom and GEC comes after the increased competition introduced by the recent British Telecom privatisation. It will apply to sales of private and public systems using a combination of GEC computer hardware and Prestel software.

## THIS WEEK

give evidence on the Energy select committee's hearing on North Sea oil depletion policy. Details of average earnings (October) and basic rates of wages (November) from Department of Employment.

Thursday: Energy select committee continues with evidence from Mr Hamish Gray, Minister of State, Cyclical Indicators for the United Kingdom economy (November). Revised figures for capital expenditure by manufacturing, distributive and service industries (third quarter), and manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (third quarter). Bank of England Bulletin will include third-quarter figures on British banking sector statistics, money stock and central government borrowing requirements.

Investment intentions of manufacturing, distributive and service industries for 1982-83, from the Department of Industry. Steel production figures (November).

Friday: Retail prices index and tax and price index (both November).

# United Engineering Industries, PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the issued share capital of the Company to be admitted to the Official List, including the shares to be issued in connection with the proposed amalgamation with Micro Consultants Limited and two American Companies ("the MCL Group"). Subject as mentioned below, dealings are expected to begin on Monday, 21st December, 1981.

It is expected that particulars of the enlarged group will be available in the Extra Statistical Services on Friday, 18th December, 1981, subject to the approval by the shareholders of the resolution to be proposed at the Extraordinary General Meeting convened for 12.00 noon on Thursday, 17th December, 1981, notice of which accompanied a circular letter to shareholders dated 27th November, 1981, and to completion of the proposed amalgamation.

Pending such particulars being available, copies of two circular letters to shareholders giving details of the acquisition of Yewlands Engineering Company Limited and Precomp Engineering Services Limited and of the proposed amalgamation with the MCL Group dated 17th July, 1981, and 27th November, 1981, respectively can be obtained from:

**N. M. ROTHSCHILD & SONS LIMITED,**  
New Court, St. Swithin's Lane, London, EC4P 4DU.

<b>Stock Markets</b>	
FT Index 520.2	FT Gilts 62.73
FT All Share 309.58	Bargains 12,500
<b>Sterling</b>	
\$1.8805	Index 89.8
New York: \$1.8670	
<b>Dollar</b>	
Index 107.2	DM 2.2580
<b>Gold</b>	
\$411.00	New York: \$406.70
<b>Money</b>	
3 mth sterling 154-155	3 mth Euro \$ 131-132
6 mth sterling 144-145	6 mth Euro \$ 144-145
(Friday's close)	



# Women in a man's world

□ Rhiannon Chapman, 35, was appointed head of personnel at the Stock Exchange last year, becoming one of the City's few female senior managers. Since she arrived in Old Broad Street, equipped with a law degree and 11 years' personnel experience in electronics, she has made some interesting discoveries. One is that the City, which she had seen as "a bit moribund and traditionalist," is in fact quite the opposite. Behind the calm veneer of utter changelessness and masculinity, there is actually a lot of change and room for creativity — from women, too. The image may be all-male; the reality is less so. The Stock Exchange itself surprised her. For one thing, it has more sophisticated equipment in everyday use than the electronics company she used to work for. It also has twice as many women staff in higher positions; this is partly because of the different skills required — mainly technological in electronics, mainly administrative in the Stock Exchange. Nevertheless, considering the latter's strongly male image, the difference intrigued her. Part of Mrs Chapman's work is to find the best way to organize jobs, and to see

Real equality of opportunity — giving women the same chance to succeed at work as men — still seems a long way off. But some women are managing to break through the barriers. The prospects are slowly but perceptibly improving for women in management. Sally Watts spoke to three women, all in their 30s, who are establishing themselves in male settings and, at the same time, assisting the careers of other women.

what skills should be developed so that neither skills nor people become obsolete. Although concerned with men and women equally, she is pleased that a number of women are in junior and middle management, and can be expected to move up. Within its traditional framework, the Stock Exchange is much more willing than it was, even fairly recently, to offer career prospects to the able ambitious woman. Rhiannon Chapman's role includes spotting potential, wherever this happens to be, and having women staff available provides her with another set of options. "There's less resistance now to thinking about a woman for promotion," she says. "It's become respect-

a complex pervading atmosphere which, coupled with women's own attitudes, inhibits their progress, says Valerie Hammond, 39, head of applied research at Ashridge Management College.

Her own working life began in 1961 as a teenage secretary; she progressed by using and creating opportunities and earning increasing responsibility. Since she joined Ashridge two years ago she has been much involved with researching women's employment, particularly for the Manpower Services Commission-sponsored "Women and Management" project. Mrs Hammond describes some of the limiting attitudes and expectations that tend to hold women back. For example: boys are more likely to go on day-release than girls, who may start evening classes in their mid-twenties; men are often expected to follow up induction courses with college-based training, and do so, but for women the approach is different, and therefore many do not; men take care to be broadly based, women ching to support roles and specialisms; men progress in logical sequence, women take opportunities at random.



Rhiannon Chapman (left), head of personnel at the Stock Exchange; Valerie Hammond (centre), head of applied research at Ashridge Management College; and Jane Adams, career planning adviser at NatWest Bank.

Women expect to work conscientiously and await promotion — indefinitely, men get more skills and, if promotion is not soon forthcoming, ask why. Again, if a firm advertises for maths or science graduates, women with an arts degree do not apply; their male counterparts do, though, and by developing on a broader basis, may progress faster than a woman who has the appropriate degree.

Valerie Hammond advises women to find the key job for them, in their firm, and work towards it, to develop themselves and not be most about it; to make self-appraisals and, instead of being shunted into a tunnel, to secure the training they need; to forget about specialisms and think about new work areas. Secretaries, too, by developing a strategy, can use their role as a basis for

management; her own method as a secretary, first for a manufacturer, then with Mobil, was to identify the team's weakest point and train herself to strengthen it. At Mobil she became interested in office technology, moved into management and training, and began working for an Open University degree. Later she joined the Petroleum Industry Training Board and soon became project manager, with responsibility for a research programme dealing with changes in office work, and for advising on women in the oil industry.

"In the last analysis," she says, "it's up to women to help themselves. The route is different for everyone: what is important is a positive personal approach."

□ Jane Adams, 35, entered banking as a school-leaver with four A-levels, passed the Institute of Bankers' examinations and was working in the Midlands for the National Westminster Bank when she was promoted last year to be a career planning adviser in London, with special responsibility for developing women staff.

More than half NatWest's workforce are women, yet relatively few hold responsible jobs. Realizing that while their talents remain unfulfilled the bank is the loser, NatWest set up monitoring procedures, transferred Jane Adams from Leicester to London as a watchdog for women and in 1981 launched a scheme

which, from its inception, enables women to return to the bank after having children. New mothers will do relief work and take up the threads again after, at most, five years' absence. With a continuing male-orientated tradition and few women in senior roles on whom younger employees could model their careers, female staff have been at a disadvantage in banking. This lack of career "conditioning" meant that the ambitious, talented school or college leaver tended to rule banking out of her plans.

Now a welcome change is infiltrating NatWest, in which Jane Adams sees her role as "adding impetus to a climate of encouragement". She wants to foster awareness of the value to women of career planning, going on courses, taking opportunities, and to see they get their share of training. Her job includes advising on policy and procedures affecting women, perhaps questioning whether something "that has always been done this way" could not be done in a slightly different way.

"Anyone looking for talent has to remember that 50 per cent of the workforce are women," she says. "Even the most entrenched manager realizes they are capable of far more than was dreamed of, even 10 years ago. Attitudes will change still faster as more women perform well in demanding jobs."

Sally Watts

ALL MALT WHISKIES are good. A few, sublime. Among these, there is some gentlemanly jostling for pride of place.

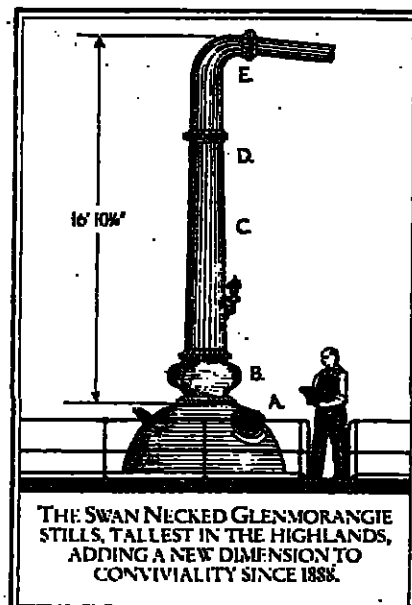
## The Old Contenders

SOME POINT to their product's mist-shrouded history; some to their peat and their barley; others yet to the chilly waters of the burn that feeds the distillery; or to the length of time the finished liquor matures and burgeons in its oaken bed.

## Primus inter pares

ONLY ONE, HOWEVER, stands literally head and shoulders above the rest. ITS NAME IS GLENMORANGIE, a saffron-gold malt of the most singular sweet-temper and purity.

AT THIS POINT, most other Highland malt stills call it a day. But callow elements can still be ascending.



THE SWAN NECKED GLENMORANGIE STILL IS THE TALLEST IN THE HIGHLANDS, ADDING A NEW DIMENSION TO CONVIVIALITY SINCE 1858.

NOTE THE BULGE in the neck just above the main body of the still. It catches the crasser essences and returns them to the boiling.

THE HEART of the whisky-making process, the still itself, where the cherished ingredients seethe and jostle in anticipation of imminent lift-off.



E

16 FEET 10 1/4 INCHES. The loftiest point in the chosen vapours' ascent. From here, the way is smooth.

EVEN THE HARDEST galecrashers start dropping back at this stage.

D

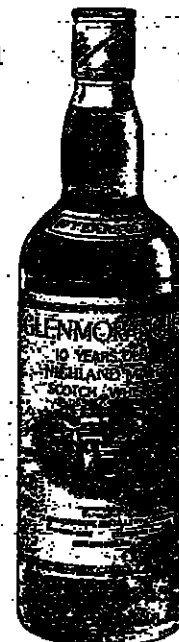
**A swan among the onions**  
GLENMORANGIE'S VIRTUE, while deriving in part from hallowed spring water and time-honoured rituals as impressive as any of its rivals, stems most significantly from an idiosyncrasy of its stills which (though conventionally onion-shaped at the base) possess necks so tall that they make other Highland stills look almost dwarfish.

THIS IS NOT for the sake of mere elegance; it has a higher purpose.

## The height of contentment

THE TALLER THE NECK of the still, the less can the heavier elements and grosser oils climb to mingle with the purer vapours that ascend to the top.

THE RESULT (after ten years' slumber in oaken casks) is a single malt whisky from which initiates obstinately refuse to be weaned, and to which newcomers vow dedication from the first uplifting bibbie.



**A little nearer heaven than other Malt Whiskies.**

GLENMORANGIE

The Glenmorangie Distillery Company, Ltd., Ross-shire. Established 1843

## Company profits set to recover in 1982

### Brokers' views

A substantial growth in British company profits but a poor performance in the world economy is the forecast for 1982 by Phillips and Drew. As long as there is an improvement in industrial volume and the sterling does not rise from present levels, they say profit recovery should be around 20 per cent. Given this background, the brokers believe equities offer good value now, even though they are only a little below their all-time high.

The effects of the upturn on one of Britain's most successful companies, British Petroleum, are definitely good, say Rowe & Pitman. The tide has turned for the company and despite the chance of a distorted final quarter because of stock losses and refinery write-offs, the worst is past, they say. The brokers indicate that there should be much better news from the North Sea next year, and strongly recommend the shares as a buy. But disappointment with BP's third quarter results has left Strauss, Turnbull less optimistic.

They say BP is still being held back by poor downstream results while upstream earnings are probably on a plateau with the group's North Sea output near its peak. They also say there are other, better prospects elsewhere in the industry, and their preferred choices are Shell Transport for sterling accounts and Standard of India, Atlantic Richfield or Standard of California for those able to invest overseas.

In the less glamorous but still important insurance sector, Capel-Cure Myers say that shares in Commercial Union Assurance were overvalued during the summer by about 50p. They have since fallen to 130p, where the brokers say they offer a more balanced risk-reward ratio. The risk is further sharp falls in profits resulting in dividend cuts, and eventually the necessity of a rights issue. The brokers say that a recent meeting with the group's management assuaged their misgivings on all three points. They conclude that CU's prospective dividend yield of over 12 per cent is its main attraction and they recommend holding.

the shares on these grounds alone.

In the case of Royal Insurance, they say the issues are more simple. Its dividend yield is only 2.5 points less than CU's but more soundly based. Despite 1982 there are reasonable prospects of a sound earnings upturn and they regard the shares as worth holding.

On General Accident they consider a long-term core holding in the sector, and although the dividend yield is only half CU's, its cover is double. With the prospect of further growth in earnings this year and next, they say, dividends should increase progressively, in due course reducing this yield differential.

Another composite insurer, Phoenix Assurance, is considered by Sheppards and Chase. They say that on a 9.6 per cent prospective yield for 1981, the shares are not excessively overpriced, at around 240p per ordinary share, but there are better opportunities elsewhere in the sector. While the UK performance should improve as a result of a recently installed computer system, the large number of overseas interests does not offer scope for a good overall performance.

Sheppards say they advise holders of Phoenix to switch into Commercial Union for income or to Sun Alliance for growth. A less pessimistic assessment of the prospects for Phoenix shareholders is made by Rowe & Pitman, who say that though the third quarter results were depressing, they continue to expect a small rise in the dividend. Although the outlook for 1982 is uncertain and depends principally on the performance of the Continental business, most investors will hold.

In the insurance broking sector, Carr Selig believe it is a good time to buy.

Drew Johnston

## Business appointments

### Barclays International director named

Mr Derek Henderson has been made a director of Barclays Bank International. Mr Henderson is a director of Imperial Chemical Industries and a non-executive director of Delcity.

Harrison Cowley Advertising (Northern) Mr Sandy Leitch, Mr Donald Fell and Mr Alan Young have joined the board of Hambro Life. Mr R. J. Wilson has been appointed chief executive of Grindlays Hambro, a subsidiary of Grindlays Bank.

هنا من الأمل



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Banks and building societies at war

Are the banks and the building societies merely making peripheral forays into each others' territory? Or are they now locked into a war that may ultimately change the face of High Street banking?

Neither party would admit to the latter view at this stage. Yet that must be the logical end of the road down which both parties have now embarked. Unless, that is, the Government and the Bank of England decide that the process should be halted. And that, I think, would be a pity.

It has taken a long time for the present warfare to start. For most of the seventies, banks and building societies, kept to their traditional paths. For the banks, that meant sitting back and watching the building societies carve out a steadily increasing share of the personal savings market. The home-loan market was effectively a "no-go area" and, in the first half of the seventies, the banks had even had to constrain their deposit rates, on official direction, from the Government's wish to prevent a damaging rise in the mortgage rate. On top of that, there was the periodic restraint placed on the growth of their business by the banking "corset".

Now, however, in a political environment that favours competition, banks and building societies find themselves face to face in a battle to increase volume to sustain the costly overhead structures they have both created.

It is ironic that the societies, as mutuals, have, perhaps, had at least as sharp an appetite for expansion as the banks. Indeed, it has been partly this voracious appetite for expansion — together, of course, with ever-sharper competition from National Savings — that has left the societies with an overall cost-of-funds profile that has made it rather easier for the banks operating on what must be fine margins to undercut them on the mortgage front.

A further irony is the rapid development of the technology of financial services. Theoretically, this should offer both groups some respite from the grow-to-survive syndrome by giving them the opportunity to stabilize their operating costs.

But there is, of course, another side to the technology coin. At the same time, it is opening up a whole new range of financial services for the consumer; and that, inevitably, will make for greater rather than less competition.

In short, there seems every reason why the war to increase market share in financial services is likely to intensify over time rather than abate.

If so, one starts to move into the realms of speculation. For instance, could the late eighties see the High Streets dominated, not by a handful of clearing banks and a host of building societies but by, say, a dozen major financial services groups?

Certainly, this looks to be the road down which we are moving and from which it may soon be too late to be able to turn back — if it is not so already. That being the case, the authorities need to make up their minds extremely rapidly if this is what they consider to be in the national interest.

On the face of it, there should be no reason to oppose such a rationalisation of financial services in this country. Indeed, the consumer should have all to gain, provided there are sufficient major competing bodies left in the

One very obvious one would be the extension of the Bank of England's control over a much broader face of the financial, and hence the monetary, system.

A second, is that it would probably aid the rationalisation of the fiscal advantages given to lenders and borrowers without seriously discriminating against any particular class of financial institutions.

There is, after all, a continuing debate over whether the tax subsidy offered home-buyers is either equitable or economically desirable. It is certainly difficult to envisage any UK Government ending this tax advantage at a stroke. But that does not mean to say that the benefit might not at some stage be reduced over a period of time.

To the extent that such a move raised the cost to the home-buyer of servicing a mortgage, it would presumably lead to some constraint both on house prices and the growth in the average size of mortgages taken out. With volume growth the name of the game, this would have significant implications for institutions still heavily dependent on home finance business alone.

There is then the issue of the saver. Here there are two aspects in particular. The first concerns the gross and net payment of interest to savers.

At present, the building societies pay investors their interest net of basic rate tax and act as the Inland Revenue's tax collector. But because they pay interest to a large number of non-taxpayers who cannot recover the tax, the tax the



Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer: Will the Treasury attempt to halt, or encourage, the evolution of the financial services sector?

societies actually pay over to the Inland Revenue is based on a composite rate, making allowance for the non-tax paying members. The composite rate is, therefore, always several points below the basic rate of tax. In effect, what this means is that the non-taxpayer gives a subsidy to other building society users and helps to keep the overall cost of funds lower than it might otherwise be.

In one sense this is no more than a case of caveat emptor. If the non-taxpayer gets a raw deal from building society investment, then that is his own look out. But it is not especially satisfactory; it is a considerable bone of contention with the banks, who see the composite rate as unfair competition; and there are in any case a number of building societies which are keen to be able to move to a more flexible system allowing them to offer gross interest payments. Here again, rationalization of the present institutional structure would almost certainly bring the issue to a head.

More generally, a rationalized structure, producing more generalist and less specialist financial service groups, should also make it easier for governments to consider a more general revision of the tax advantages that might usefully be given to savers.

At the moment, these advantages go largely to the long-term saver through a pension fund and, to a lesser extent, the saver using the life assurance route. Yet the government is increasingly concerned about the liquidity of the personal sector and a number of monetary economists have often posed the question as to how the potential inflationary effects of this could be more effectively neutralized.

One way is to make medium-term savings a great deal more attractive fiscally.

"North Sea oil provides a unique opportunity for Britain to improve her economic performance, raise her living standards, move forward to full employment, and develop as a socially just society." Thus wrote the then Labour government in a White Paper in 1978.

Two and a half years later Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of British Leyland, was telling the Government that if it could not find a way of living with North Sea oil and bringing the exchange rate down it should "leave the bloody stuff in the ground".

Looking round at the industrial havoc caused by the steepest recession since the war, it is certainly hard to believe that the British people have benefited from oil. Company investment and living standards are all at their lowest for some years; unemployment is the highest ever recorded and rising; interest rates remain at historically high levels and inflation has stuck obstinately in double figures.

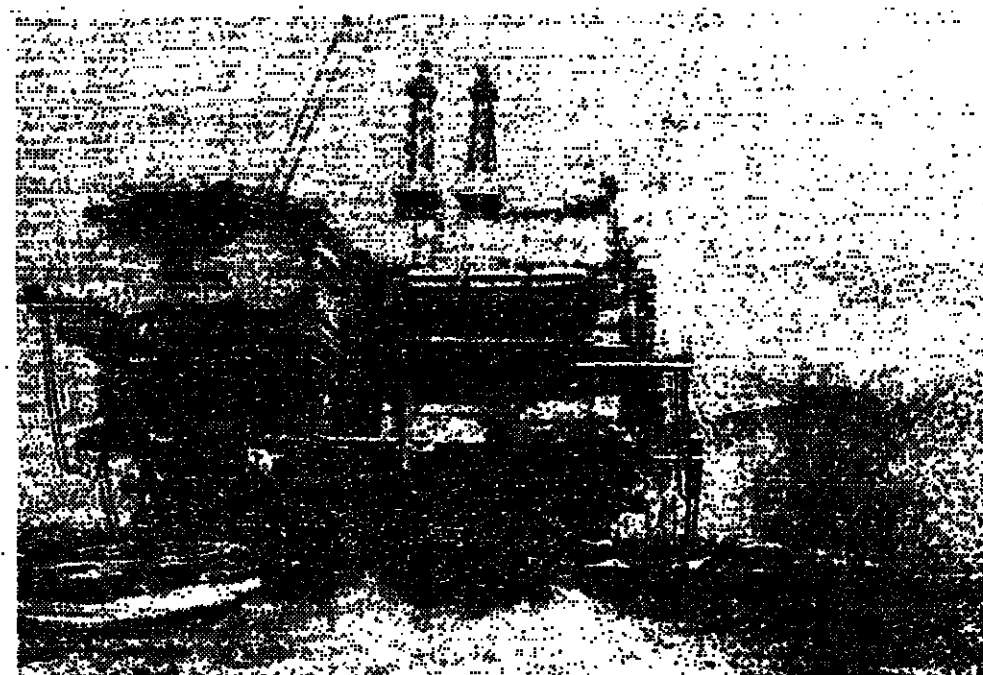
What has happened to the great oil bonanza? Are we really better off with oil? Oil makes a relatively small contribution to national output, accounting for about 3% per cent of gross national product this year and predicted to rise to a peak of about 5 per cent by the mid-1980s.

But it makes a much bigger contribution to Government revenues through such important sources as petroleum revenue tax and has a substantial impact on the balance of payments.

This year revenues will top £5,800m, equivalent to 5% per cent of all tax revenues, rising to 6 per cent or so by 1983-84; while oil exports will contribute perhaps £8,000m to the balance of payments in 1981 (compared with a £5,000m deficit current account surplus).

The present Government was the first to reap the benefits of oil. Revenues began to flow only in 1978-79, to the tune of a mere £200m, but rose quickly to £2,300m in 1979-80 and £3,800m in 1980-81. So any inquest on what has happened to Britain's oil wealth must focus on what this Government has done.

The Government's policy is to use North Sea oil revenues to help reduce the public sector borrowing requirements, so as to cut interest



A hostile environment has added to the trials of the North Sea.

## Frittering away the North Sea's riches

rates and thus encourage investment.

In the words of Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury last May: "Without these revenues, government borrowing would be higher and so interest rates would be higher, within a given rate of monetary growth. By keeping interest rates lower than they would otherwise be, the oil revenues are making it easier for the private sector to invest."

But there is a second component of government policy: a willingness to accept an oil-inflated exchange rate much higher than Britain's competitive position warrants. The Treasury has estimated that oil-related factors (mostly to do with Britain's relative insulation from the impact of higher oil prices) might have accounted for as much as a third to a half of the pound's strength during 1979 and 1980 when it rose by nearly 25 per cent.

Until quite late in the day

the Government connived at this over-valuation, mainly because it helped in the fight against inflation.

But ministers also seized on the justification put forward by Forsyth and Kay (Fiscal Studies, July 1980). They said that a higher exchange rate was the mechanism by which oil revenues were transformed into purchasing power through cheapening imports, and that by the same token the possession of oil inevitably entailed a contraction of the manufacturing sector which became less competitive.

The existence of a balance of payments surplus, chiefly owing to our possession of oil, and a strong exchange rate, did however permit the Government to abolish exchange controls.

Since then more than £6,000m has gone overseas as investment in foreign stocks and shares, and £5,500m into foreign operations of United Kingdom businesses, attracted by the better returns available abroad. This has

tended to exert downward pressure on the exchange rate, offsetting to some extent the oil-induced rise.

Everyone agrees that because North Sea oil is a finite resource the principal object of policy must be to convert the revenues flowing from it into other assets which will go on yielding income after the oil runs out. What has been the result of government policy so far?

Using the revenues to reduce government borrowing may indeed have reduced interest rates from what they otherwise would have been, given the Government's monetary targets. But the impact of any such reduction on investment has been wholly negated, first by the Government's tight money policy which has kept interest rates high, and secondly, by its restrictive borrowing limit which has depressed the economy — and by dampening demand — has lowered the prospective return on capital projects.

In addition, the impact last

year of the steeply rising exchange rate was to wipe out large parts of manufacturing industry which could no longer compete and to squeeze profits, which in turn led to redundancies and a big outburst of unemployment, precisely the reverse of what the Government intended.

The high exchange rate did temporarily make the British people better off. It boosted their real incomes by making imports cheaper and thus lowering the rate of inflation. But this was only at the expense of company profitability and it did not last. Living standards are now lower than they were before the Government took office.

So far, then the oil revenues have gone in three directions — on investment abroad, which provides the only additional permanent assets to show for it; on financing a short-lived boost to personal living standards, most of which went on higher consumption especially of imports; and on meeting the cost of a huge rise in unemployment, one reason why the Government has been relatively unsuccessful in curbing its own borrowing.

The conclusion must be that the Government has so far frittered away most of the benefits of North Sea oil and shows every sign of continuing to do so.

The alternative would have been to pursue an expansionary policy designed to ensure that the additional revenues provided by oil were directed into extra investment, for example, through a special North Sea fund or by subsidizing the cost of investment capital. Without expansion, oil merely displaces other forms of production.

Removal for a few years of the balance of payments constraint would have permitted higher imports of capital equipment to modernize British industry. This would have reduced the current account surplus and lowered the exchange rate, minimizing the adjustment burden for industry and the attractions of investment overseas.

Instead oil has become a burden rather than a blessing on the British people. Sir Michael Edwards was right. We should have left the "bloody stuff" beneath the waves for a more enlightened management.

Frances Williams

## Tough anti-corruption laws in US have been watered down. Edward Symonds reports

### Turning the Nelson eye on bribery

Washington

The next few weeks will be busy ones in the official hunt for money-grubbers. In the rancorous investigations that are now getting under way, neither givers nor alleged receivers of bribes will be blessed.

On the bribe receiving end, the Senate will be the last minute flinched and deferred until January its long-drawn-out efforts to impeach Harrison A. Williams, Democrat of New Jersey, on the spear set up for him by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's "Abram Plot".

On the bribe-giving end, the action will be in the House of Representatives and, of course, the target will be big business. Four months have now passed since McDowell Douglas, a Detroit lawyer, was indicted for a mining of its dirty linen, agreed to end a two-year suit by paying criminal and civil fines totalling more than \$12m for bribes paid in Pakistan, the Philippines, Venezuela and South Korea.

But memories of the revelations of the mid-seventies are being kept green by opponents of the latest effort to tighten the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which was passed with a great show of reforming zeal in 1977.

In its new round of hearings, held in the usually innocuous setting of the Subcommittee on Governmental Operations, Consumer Protection and Finance, the House has yet to show its hand. But everyone else has.

The Republican-dominated Senate lost no time in offering the Business Practices and Records Bill, intended to serve as a watered-down version of the hated Carter-period Act. Senator William Proxmire, Democrat of Wisconsin, last month abandoned his campaign to repeal the 1977 Act, which he helped to draft and now supports the softer measure. Under the provisions of the Bill that will be awaiting House action early in the new year, a company with "cause to know" that its employees or agents are offering bribes, will no longer be liable (as it was under the 1977 legislation) to fines of up to \$1m and prison sentences of up to five years.

In a word, the Senate is proposing that a management will be breaking the law only if it authorizes bribery "expressly or by course of conduct".

A further Senate proposal is to shift the focus of the law from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which played a leading role in the revelations of the last decade, to the Department of Justice. Mr John S. R. Shanley, SEC's new head, formerly an investment banker and a vigorous supporter of the Reagan election campaign, has raised no objection to this curbing of his authority. In common with the new Administration as a whole, he has been doing his best to smooth the way for the passage of the Senate package.

The build-up of steam behind the Senate move owes much to the support of business, which still hopes for more favours than it has so far received from the Reagan Administration. The 1977 Act, like the 1981 Companies Act in Britain, is bitterly resented because of the cost of compliance and the danger of confidential disclosures. The consultant fraternity, like Dr Paul H. Nitze, American leader of the European disarmament negotiations, now in progress in Geneva, has backed up its business position with weighty arguments against weakening the marketing arm of the multinational corporations.

The American giants are complaining that they are losing millions of dollars in export sales because of their inability to sweeten their offerings in ways that they claim to be universally adopted among their foreign competitors. They also complain of the unfairness of the accounting requirements of the 1977 Act, which can add as much as 50 per cent to an audit charge, thus imposing an additional loss of several million dollars annually on the head office expenses of the larger companies.

Far from lapping up this new source of gravy, as has often been argued by business critics, the accountability has been deeply concerned over the vagueness of the 1977 Act.

Mr William S. Kanaga, chairman of Arthur and

Company and immediate past chairman of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, has berated the "fuzziness" of the 1977 Act, both as to the adequacy of a company's internal controls and as to the extent of a transgression (from a free lunch to an unmarked envelope stuffed with cash) that should be castigated as "material" and hence subject to censure and possible legal action.

The Senate proposal seeks to reduce some of the uncertainty by limiting head office reporting responsibility for minority-interest foreign affiliates, and by providing that a bribe will only be illegal abroad if paid in a country in which such actions are disallowed under local law.

In practice, of course, even the humblest of banana republics usually boasts stringent anti-bribery laws. In the mid-seventies' revelations it was the countries, whose officials had been bribed, that were the most vehement in their demands for redress.

Another weakness of the Senate proposal is that, to the legal mind, the language offered as a substitute for the present clause on "reason to know" could make a dead letter of that part of the law.

Mr Harold M. Williams, chairman of the SEC during the Carter Administration, but a critic of the present law, foresees the development, under the Senate version of a "shut-eye approach" by business. The result, he believes, would be the proliferation of a management culture based on the principle "I'm not going to

authorize, and don't tell me". From this point of view, a preferable strategy would be to abandon the anti-bribery effort altogether. If this be the Administration's ultimate intention, there is (understandably) no desire to trumpet it from the roof tops.

In the meantime, the Department of Justice is left with the charge of enforcing the 1977 statute. Mr Jonathan C. Rose is the assistant attorney general who is carrying most of this load. Significantly, he is an office holder from the Carter Administration.

Last month Mr Rose told the House that his department has no fewer than 54 cases of possible foreign bribery under investigation. The Justice Department, as always, has its lips sealed on the identity of the companies under suspicion. Observers believe that the leading resource, electronic and communications companies were too severely scared during the 70s to feature again among today's group of possible transgressors. Construction equipment and consumer-goods purveyors to Middle East markets would seem to be more likely department targets.

Such proceedings under the 1977 Act have in the past generally been settled out of court. Under the new administration, and with such a heavy case load on the docket, the expectation is that (regardless of whatever legislative progress is made) the Department of Justice will struggle to speed up the settlement process to the full extent allowed under the present law.

## Business Diary profile: Giuseppe Cabassi, Milan's Mr Sandman

Milan

His empire, he himself admits, is founded on sand. "El Sabbatino" or "The Sandman" is the Milanese dialect nickname for Giuseppe Cabassi, one of the latest entrepreneurs to set tongues wagging in Italy's business capital.

Is he buying into the ailing Rizzoli-Corriere Della Sera newspaper and publishing group? Is he selling the Rinascenza-UPM stores chain to Roberto Calvi, the controversial banker?

Is he teaming up with the Socialist Party in this last rumour because he was seen dining, children and all, at the next table to the Socialist Party secretary, Bettino Craxi at a Milan restaurant?

There may be both truth and fiction in all these. Cabassi is not given to advertising his activities; his staff is not even allowed to provide his photograph. "He is too modest," is the way staff members put it. The family portrait would show a bushy browed, quiet spoken, handsome man of 52, married with eight children, of whom the eldest son of 24 works with his father, while another of 20 is studying at a seminary for the priesthood.

It began with sand, rather with sandpits left by his father for supplying the building industry. One thing led to another — sand to

building and property, then to hotels and tourism, and also to insurance. Cabassi has probably as many companies quoted on the Milan Bourse as anyone — De Angeli Frusa, Ansonia, Brocchi, Cazzani, Zinelli, La Rinascenza and Irvim.

He is one of the aggressive, northern Italian entrepreneurs of the 1980s, financiers rather than manufacturers, and thus quite different to yesterday's Agnelli of Fiat or Pirelli and, one hopes, equally different to the scandal-soiled likes of

Sindona and Caltegrone of the 1970s. Others of Cabassi's ilk include Silvio Berlusconi, 44 (property development, private television); Orazio Magagnoli, 40 (fruit trusts, insurance); and Cletto Teruzzi, 55 (bourse operations); and most prominent of all, Carlo de Benedetti of Olivetti, who is also vice-chairman of Banco Ambrosiano.

His activities, according to Cabassi, fall into three areas — insurance (five companies, Ansonia, Veneta, Intercontinental, Levanio and Europa); property (De Angeli Frusa and Brocchi); and hotels (Irvim).

Plenty of movement is going on. The insurance groups claim annual premiums of 350,000 lire (£150m). The hotel group is expanding. De Angeli Frusa is being reshaped as a holding company, with a controlling interest in La Rinascenza, bought last year.

Brigischi is to be cornerstone of the property interest, and is undergoing a major capital increase from 10,000 to 220,000 lire (£4.3m to £95.6m), thanks to the entry of new partners including de Benedetti. "But I will keep control," Cabassi adds.

Then, almost as an afterthought, he recalled he has

Rigoriferi, Milanese, the city's ice-making plant in the days when food was cooled with blocks of ice. Now it offers the biggest security "storage" vaults in Italy, "Milan's Fort Knox", in the words of the advertisement.

You can rent anything from a locked drawer for jewels or documents to a 28 sq m (301 sq ft) strong room for works of art or gold ingots, guarded day and night by a private army, many of them ex-police. During the hot summer you can deposit fur coats (with a cleaning and repair service) or carpets (with a heading service).

"Last summer we took in 60,000 fur coats and 22,000 carpets," Cabassi says. "A few years ago Scotland Yard people came out and gave us advice on the vaults."

Apple of Cabassi's eye is Milanofiori, a huge office development he is building on the southern outskirts, near the entry to the Genoa motorway. "This is what is nearest to my heart," he says with a nod towards the glass-fronted, half-decorated blocks looming through the wintry mist, looking like the set of a Fellini film.

There will be office accommodation for 15,000, an hotel, and a congress centre to seat

1,800. The World Trade Centre in Italy will be here, and also the Milan agricultural commodities bourse. He would evidently like to attract the Milan trade fair which, situated in the city centre, is "outdated from all points of view."

What is the recipe for such self-made progress? The choice of men, is Cabassi's answer. If he buys a company, he does not try to run it, but carefully selects the management. "Any firm can be good if it has the people to make the wheels turn round," he said.

His staff add another reason for success — barter. He finances activities by offering in exchange property rights at Milanofiori, a useful way of minimizing bank exposure in times of high interest rates.

Even so, it is not always easy going. He realized years ago that Milan was bursting with ideas and the future lay outside the city limits. He had an area near the Como-Turin motorway junction, but never received building permission. Then he heard the Visconti family and a private company had development permits about to expire in what is now Milanofiori, so he jumped at the opportunity.

## BURGESS PRODUCTS (Holdings) P.L.C.

(Light electrical and acoustical engineers)

Extracts from Mr W. Riddell's Statement: Profits for the year are reasonably satisfactory when viewed against the background of the effects of the recession on the Group's operations.

Burgess Architectural Products had a reasonably profitable year with satisfactory performance in the U.K. market where the low level of activity still reflects a sluggish building industry. Turnover at Burgess Industrial Silencing was down but profitability continued to improve.

In the U.K., the markets for Burgess Micro Switch were depressed and extremely competitive, whilst improved results are anticipated from the three overseas companies in the current year.

At Burgess Power Tools reduced domestic spending and the strength of sterling continued to have adverse effects on home and export sales respectively although current exchange rates could foreshadow some improvement in exports. Continuing low demand for original equipment and very keen competition in the field of replacement equipment resulted in a very low level of activity for Burgess Products Company. Sales and Engineering efforts have resulted in new contracts and whilst there are yet at a modest level, they will be quite substantial as and when the truck and tractor industries recover from the recession.

The Balance Sheet has been considerably strengthened by the reduction in working capital during the year and the Group has adequate borrowing facilities to take advantage of an improvement in the economy when it arises. The result of an adjustment reveals that less than 80% of the Group's average fixed assets and working capital during the year was financed by borrowing and is an additional indication of the underlying strength of the Group.

John Earle



From sandpits to strong-rooms: Giuseppe Cabassi, "The Sandman". Milan strong-rooms help the rich sleep easier at night.















Commercial Property by Baron Phillips

Commercial Properties and Services to the Business World

# Christmas gloom for City Lettings

A Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks survey shows there has been a sharp rise in vacant office space during November, taking the total to 1.7m sq ft.

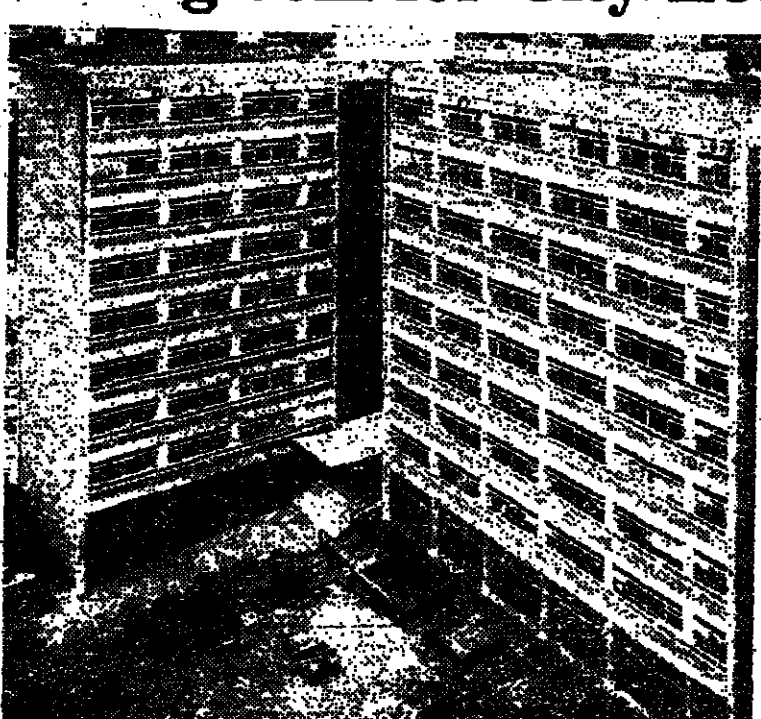
Traditionally December is a poor month for City lettings and so far the run up to Christmas indicates a worse than normal situation. During November, more than 200,000 sq ft of office accommodation found its way on to the market, an increase of 24,000 sq ft over the previous month.

Increased empty office space occurred in the EC and WC postal districts covered by the survey. The largest single block of 145,000 sq ft came on to the market. This is the largest of the 11 office units in excess of 50,000 sq ft on the open market in the survey area. WC2 registered the greatest surge in vacant space, rising from 250,000 sq ft in October to 441,000 sq ft last month.

Against this gloomy picture of rising empty space, the amount of accommodation actually let in November remained on a level of the previous month, the agents say, at around 300,000 sq ft. The largest single letting last month was 27,000 sq ft in the EC1 district.

But DT & C note that the impact of vacant space was lessened in November by the unusually high number of buildings withdrawn from the market. Overall empty office accommodation within the City area increased by only 189,000 sq ft.

The only district to show any activity was EC1 where about 78,000 sq ft of space was let, sold or went under offer. This was a substantial increase on the previous month's activity when a meagre 17,000 sq ft found a new tenant or owner. At the other end of the scale,



Television South has leased 16,340 sq ft in Kent House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, from Kent County Council. The letting follows the move by TVS to construct new television studios in Maidstone. Joint agents Walter and Fooknall and Richard Ellis state that only 24,510 sq ft are vacant in the building.

lettings fell dramatically in EC4 from 124,000 sq ft in October to only 51,000 sq ft last month.

It is uncertain how much of this steady rise in vacant office accommodation is directly attributable to a sluggish economy but clearly, many prospective tenants are deferring any decision-making until the picture is clearer. Observers in the investment field indicate that institutions, in particular, are becoming increasingly chary of committing large amounts of funds for future development. It seems likely that the mainstream property market is likely to remain in the doldrums until spring.

While the City and the

agents note that there has been little evidence of any shortage of office space in Holland.

Demand has been muted and rents have been declining over the last six months. In Amsterdam, prime rents have slipped from Dfl350 a sq metre to Dfl325 a sq metre (about £7.10 a sq ft to £6.60 a sq ft).

Slippage has been less noticeable in other major cities like The Hague and Rotterdam where the fall has been in the order of only Dfl10 to Dfl20 a sq metre. As a consequence, Savills report that there is great opportunity for office rental growth in those cities than in Amsterdam where there is far more buildings under construction.

Holland's poor economy is taking its toll of the retailing sector, Savills say that the country's main shopping streets continue to show a high degree of volatility.

In Amsterdam, the prime pedestrianized Kalverstraat has between 10-15 per cent of its total shops either available on the market or potentially available if approached.

Rents are presently in the Dfl1,100-Dfl1,200 a sq metre range (£22.50-£24.60 a sq ft) and Savills are forecasting that these could well fall to Dfl1,000-Dfl1,100 a sq metre before next spring.

Other shopping streets in Amsterdam are showing the same trend and the fall is not only restricted to that city. In Rotterdam, the main shopping pich has already been trimmed to Dfl1,000 a sq metre.

A similar picture is emerging in Holland's industrial property scene where rents in the Randstad, prime industrial area, has fallen from Dfl80-90 a sq metre to Dfl75-90 a sq metre (£16.41-£18.41 to £15.53-£18.41 a sq ft) during the past six months.

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Door-to-door distribution - local or nationwide. Tel: 01-200 0200 for more details.

Intelpost  
24 hr. day telexmail transmission service. Tel: 01-200 0200 for more details.

Royal Mail Parcels  
Tailored to meet business needs. Competitive contracted terms. UK or worldwide. Tel: 01-200 0200 for more details.

## SECURITY SERVICES

Fort Knox Floor Sales  
Installed Ins. 0532 532001. Freeport Leeds.

## TELEX & ANSWERING MACHINE SERVICE

Automatic-Code A Phone Ltd.  
24 hr. answering machines. Sale or rental. Nationwide service. 01-446 2451.

## TRANSLATION SERVICE

TTI Translation & Text Print Ltd.  
19 Hagley Rd. 021-455 9731.

TTI Technical Translation International Ltd.  
All languages/subjects.

TTI Languages Ltd.  
13 Colmore Row, B3 2BE. 021-236 3524.

TTI Leeds  
15-19 Kingsway, WC2B 6JU. 01-240 5361.

TTI London  
1874, Tel: 377232.

TTI Manchester  
130 Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square, M2. 0161-252 6338. Tel: 377232.

TTI Newcastle  
St Nicholas Chambers, Aram Corner, NE1 1PE. 0191-262 4855.

Midland Computer Services Ltd.  
Payroll plus A/C Systems. 021 7044226.

Systems Technology Consultants  
Imported advice and support. 0585 52811.

## WORD PROCESSING

Business Development Services  
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John French Antique Carriage Clocks  
Expert restoration repair service. 488 9876.

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658 Holloway Road, N19 01 272 2157/6418

## BOOKS

For rent, rare books bought/sold  
49/50 Quarry Street Goudford 7424

## COLLECTORS

Angela Gold & Silver Exchange (Northampton)  
Gold/Silver coins, medals, etc. 0604 31913.

David Grove Associates  
All coins/medals bought & sold. 580 3677.

Harvey Michael Ross  
Gold coin dealers. Con list available. Dealing 01-589 45621.

HM Ross Russell House St Pauls St Leeds  
01-433 6251.

For more prices Tel: 0532 468251 (7 lines).

London Coin Company  
Free valuation coins/wor medals. 01-930 7597.

Lobbs  
Gold coins our specialty. 01-637 7922.

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Curtaincleaners Commercial & Industrial  
London specialists service. 01-640 2212.

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Total capability in nationwide selection and placement worldwide. Aerodrome House, Hayes Rd, Southall, Middx. Tel: 01-843 2411.

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Gaglieri Italian Furniture Ltd.  
Large selection, 288 High Holborn, London.

## HOME ENTERTAINMENTS

Video Markets  
Largest specialist hi-fi/video retailer in the UK.  
For nearest branch 0923 27737.

## INTERIOR & EXTERIOR

Contract and Maintenance Services Ltd.  
Fleets, conversion, alteration. 0554 364241.

J.S. Kervazios & Sons 01-838 2720

Joiners carpenters & decorators.

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Francis Jewels and designs. Visit us at 153 New Bond St. 488 1836/7.

Torrid Jewellers of Florence.  
Exclusive Jewellery since 1969. 22 Old Bond St.

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Charltonhouse of London Musical Instruments Ltd.  
Brass & woodwind specialists. 01-250 0949.

Paxman's Horns & Brass  
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Manolo Blahnik  
Tents/suitings/riding clothes. 49-51 Old Church Street, London, SW3. 01-352 8622.

Raglan  
15 Knightsbridge, SW1. Unusual gifts too.

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Hand  
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Exclusive designs. 1st Floor, 7-8 Market Place, London, W1. 01-580 1629.

Palladium Ltd. W. 01-478 1620 + Loughran + Golds Park.

Rome Fur  
Vast choice of furs and fur hats. 01-629 9563.

Stetson Fur  
The most exclusive furs in London, 38 Conduit St, London, W1. 01-493 1857.

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Furniture & upholstery. 01-830 4221.

H.R. Higgins (Cottons-man) Ltd.  
Specialists in fine cottons. 01-629 3913.

Recreation Services Limited  
Supplies video games. 588 7348. Tel: 892989.

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Robin Hood Golf Centre  
Europe's largest golf experts. 021-771 7544.

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International Hearing Aid Centre  
Bourne, Oxford Street, W1. Tel: 01-636 1515.

Test the World's finest aids/repair dept.

## CHARITABLE & BENEVOLENT ORGANIZATIONS

British Heart Foundation  
57 Gloucester Place W.1. Tel: 01-935 0185.

British Society  
Seamless Welfare, Box 11, Aford, Essex.

Cancer Research Campaign  
2 Carlton House, Terrace, London SW1Y 5AR.

Corporation of London  
123 Strand Rd, Richmond, Surrey.

Helping young homeless - Donations: 57 Dean St, W.1.

Church Army - Canterbury 1981/2  
Canterbury, 1981/2. 01-511 1226. Cheques to Independent Rd., SE3 D.L.G.

Cruse for the Widowed & their Children  
123 Strand Rd, Richmond, Surrey.

Imperial Cancer Research Fund  
PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3PX.

London Association for the Blind  
14 Verney Rd. SE 16. Help the Blind people Nationwide Homes/Work/Hostels/Flats/Short/Long Stays/Homes/Grants.

Maria Theresia Memorial Foundation  
Cancer nursing - welfare - advice - research. 124 Staines Street, SW1X 9BP. 01-720 5151.

Mind National Assoc. for Mental Health  
22 Harley St, W1N 2ED. 01-637 0741.

Muscular Dystrophy Group of Great Britain  
25 Dorset St., London SW1 0DP. 01-720 8055.

Philosophical Association  
Mental Health. R. D. Loring: Chairman. 486 9012.

The Royal Hospital & Home for incurables  
For the incurable and very severely disabled. Shelter Campaign for the Homeless.

Room 415, 157 Waterloo Rd. SE1. 01-633 9277. Please give - people need shelter.

The Chest, Heart and Stroke Association  
Tavistock House North, London, WC1. 01-387 1117.

The Macmillan Schools Ltd.  
Longterm Care/Training Mentally Handicapped.

The Shaftesbury Society  
112 Regency St, SW1 - Caring since 1844.

Soldiers' Sailors & Airmen's Families Assoc.  
Advice and Practical Help to Service and ex-Servicemen. PO Box 5 London SW1.

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Beauty Specialists  
Lewist (Shower Clin.)  
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105 Camden Road, NW1. 01-485 3569.

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Manolo Blahnik  
Tents/suitings/riding clothes. 49-51 Old Church Street, London, SW3. 01-352 8622.

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15 Knightsbridge, SW1. Unusual gifts too.

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Camping Holidays Discount Warehouse  
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Carsons Nationwide Leisure  
Award specialists. 3 branches. Bath 2810.

Dawson Carvers Ltd. Touring caravans, motor homes. 0834 23433.

Ealing Sports Centre  
W. London top choice sport store. 579 6536.

Robin Hood Golf Centre  
Europe's largest golf experts. 021-771 7544.

## HOME & PERSONAL SERVICES

International Hearing Aid Centre  
Bourne, Oxford Street, W1. Tel: 01-636 1515.

Test the World's finest aids/repair dept.







## Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

## BBC 1

12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Maura Stuart. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report and news headlines with sub-titles. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Among the guests is Frederick Fox, one of the royal. He will be giving advice on the sort of hats to wear with different outfits. 1.45 Choice. Block with Fred Harris (r). 2.00 When the Bough Breaks. The fourth of eight programmes presented by John Thaw for parents who think they mislead their children (r). 2.12 Closedown. 3.00 See Hear! A magazine programme for the hearing-impaired. This week - Christmas books (shown yesterday). 3.25 Della Smith's Cookery Course. The last in the series and we learn about puddings (r). 3.53 Regional news (not London).

## BBC 2

10.35 Speak for Yourself. Hints on how to socialise with friends of a different culture. 11.00 Play School. For the under-fives presented by Elizabeth Milbank and Fred Harris. The story of Helen Palmer's Geoffrey. 11.25 Write Away. Advice on everyday writing presented by Barry Took (r). 11.40 Closedown. 2.20 Let's Go. The last in the series of programmes designed to help the mentally handicapped get more from life. Presented by Brian Rix (r). 2.35 Inside Japan. The last in a series about the Japanese way of life (r). 3.05 Closedown. 3.30 Multi-Cultural Soap Shop. (r)

## ITV/LONDON

9.30 Film: A Night to Remember\* (1958) starring Kenneth More. The story of the events that led to the sinking of the unsinkable Titanic. 11.30 Further Adventures of Oliver Twist. Daniel Murray stars as Oliver in another escapade that starts where Dickens's novel ends (r). 12.00 Cockleshell Bay. Adventures of the Cockleshell Bay. The story of the Cockleshell Bay. 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets. 12.50 Doctor Who. Joe Jordan and his guests discuss Parkinson's Disease. 1.00 News. 1.20 Theme News. 1.30 Farmhouse Kitchen. Hot and Cold Puddings. 2.00 Money-go-round. News of compensation for a patient who suffered drug injury. 2.50 Film: Christopher Columbus (1949) starring Fredric March. British-made effort about the famous man's struggle to prove the Earth was round.

## Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing. 7.00 Farming Week. 8.30 Today. 8.35 The Week on 4. 8.45 Glyn Worpam with BBC Sound Archives. 9.00 News. 9.05 Start the Week. 10.00 News. 10.02 Money Box. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.45 Morning Story "Growing Up" by Edward Gellens. 11.00 News. 11.05 Down your Way with the Maryle Hill. Somerset. 11.10 Poetry Please. 12.00 News. 12.02 You and Yours. 12.27 How to Survive the Office Party by Jonathan Brown. 12.55 The World at One. 1.40 The Archers. 2.00 News. 2.05 Women's Hour. 3.00 News. 3.02 "A Man of too Much Honour" by Elizabeth Holt. 4.35 Piano Parlor Patricia Carroll plays Victorian piano music. 4.45 "The Tale of the Sad Soldier" by Magda Szabo. 5.00 PM. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 News and Financial Report. 6.30 The News Out. 7.00 News. 7.02 The Archers. 7.20 Start the Week. 7.30 Play: "In and Out the Union" by Glyn Worpam. 8.30 Kaleidoscope. 9.00 News. 9.02 The World Tonight. 10.30 Science Now. 11.00 A Book at Bedtime "The Orchid" by John Burt Foster Jr. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 12.00 News and Weather. 12.05 News. 12.55 Weather. 1.30 PM. 1.55 News. 1.57 PM. 2.00 PM. 2.02 PM. 2.05 PM. 2.08 PM. 2.11 PM. 2.14 PM. 2.17 PM. 2.20 PM. 2.23 PM. 2.26 PM. 2.29 PM. 2.32 PM. 2.35 PM. 2.38 PM. 2.41 PM. 2.44 PM. 2.47 PM. 2.50 PM. 2.53 PM. 2.56 PM. 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## Snow turns Britain into disaster area

Continued from page 1

unable to run direct services between London, Bristol and South Wales, British Rail gave a warning that the situation was likely to deteriorate and said services would be restricted today.

As sea ice set in, the Royal Naval Air Station at Portland, Dorset, after jumping into the sea from the 10,000 sq ft Ecuador-registered cargo ship, *Boana*. She started listing at 45 degrees when about 20 miles south of Portland Bill.

A man, a woman and two children were taken ashore by the Royal Naval Air Station helicopter at Portland. Another eight people were picked up by the Guernsey helicopter to await transfer by Sea-King helicopter to Portland.

Another man was lost after small fishing boat, *Over*, turned as it tried to reach safety at Newhaven harbour, Sussex.

The boat, the 26 ft long *Orlando* from Cornwall was less than 300 yards from the harbour when the two-man crew were pitched into the turbulent sea.

Both Newhaven lifeboats were launched and quickly picked up one of the men. They continued the search with a Royal Navy helicopter for the other man until darkness fell.

On the Kent coast, sea washed by force 10 winds caused extensive flooding at low lying areas. At Hythe and Sandgate, waves 40 ft high swamped seafront cottages.

Seawater several feet deep surrounded scores of homes and the main coast road between Folkestone and Hastings was closed in two places.

Fifty mentally and physically handicapped patients were evacuated from hospital at Hayling Island, Hampshire, as a sea-wall was in danger of collapsing. Heavy seas poured over the wall, flooding the area near the hospital and the patients, aged up to 70, were ferried to the mainland.

The patients, many in a distressed state, were given food and blankets at an emergency centre set up at a clinic in Havant, before being transferred to Colchester Hospital.

Crews on the Isle of Wight, had to dig out for nearly 60 years. Waves swept over the sea wall, flooding roads, gardens and the basements of houses. The same high tide battered the northern coast of the island and there was two to three feet of floodwater at Yarmouth for Christmas.

All along the south coast many small boats were ripped from their moorings. Inland the rivers Avon and Stour burst their banks at Christchurch, Dorset, leaving some streets under the foot of water. Council workers

put sandbags around homes threatened by the floods. Most of Quoy nearby was flooded and with hundreds of acres of meadowland under water, livestock had to be moved to safety.

The fierce winds caused at least two deaths. A man was killed and a woman passenger seriously injured when a tree fell on top of a van on the main road between Carmarthen and Kidwelly in Dyfed and a 70-year-old woman motorist was killed in Dublin when a portable lamp fell from a lorry onto her car.

Scotland had borne the brunt of the bad weather overnight. Yesterday snow blocked many roads in the north and east and the Aberdeen area was particularly badly affected.

The blizzard did not reach West Yorkshire until last night, when the area experienced its first heavy snowfall of the winter.

Today's prospects for air and rail travellers are bleak. Heathrow had one runway only open and Gatwick, Luton and Manchester airports were closed last night. Thousands of passengers were waiting at the terminals because of a backlog of delayed flights from the past few days.

A British Airways spokesman said: "Maintenance staff have been trying to work in temperatures of minus 15 degrees centigrade. Equipment was frozen and we could not move the big jets because of ice".

Britain has recorded its lowest temperatures since records began 100 years ago. On Saturday, for the second night running, the coldest area was Shropshire. The Met Office at Shawbury, near Shrewsbury, recorded minus 25 degrees centigrade, four degrees colder than on the previous night.

At the hamlet of Preston Brook, near Warrington, however, Dr Derek Owen, a chemist, recorded a temperature of minus 28.6 degrees centigrade in the garden of his old motor home. He said: "My wife has always said we live in the coldest house in the world and I am beginning to think she is right".

At Shawbury itself, the village garage proprietor, Mr Gordon Owen, said: "We have been kept busy with people whose car radiators froze up as they were driving along".

Four policemen, meanwhile, are struggling through Arctic blizzards and temperatures of minus 30 degrees centigrade to look for lost motorists for Christmas.

The men, from Surrey police traffic department, have been on an expedition to North Cape in Norway, for charity. They reached there on snow scooter on the last journey home to warmer weather—only just.



## Shepherd of the Year forsakes his flock for a city's acclaim

From Tim Jones, Tywyn

The first winter snow lay thick on the sparse slopes of Happy Valley and across the bay Snowdon stood proud in its mantle of white. Walking with a limp across the terrain because he had that morning been kicked by a cow, Mr Simon Jones above, wore the polite look of a man containing his amusement.

He had just been asked by photographer Bill Warhurst to round up some of his flock. The sheep, hardy and agile Welsh mountain ewes, were scattered around the slope and seemed to have other ideas. Surely the exercise would take all day.

Two quick commands in Welsh sent sheepdogs Meg and Dovey racing around the perimeter of the slope and within two minutes Mr Jones was posing, crook in hand, with 220 ewes and one angry ram standing in a neat circle behind him. It was a dramatic example of the kind of skill which has won for Mr Jones

the coveted title of Shepherd of the Year.

The life that Mr Jones (aged 27) leads is so different to that experienced by most of the working population that it is difficult for urban man to comprehend. As he strides the high mountain above Cardigan Bay, his only companions are his dogs and his only company the kestrels and buzzards hovering in the air ready to end the life of a vole or songbird.

It is a harsh, cruel domain which brings to the shepherd the kind of contentment few people ever achieve. Strides, demarcations, disputes, and management blunders are alien concepts to him as he practises the skills handed down for generations.

The solitude of his occupation makes him difficult to interview for his lonely life provides few opportunities for worktime conversation. His craft is part of his life and the effort of trying to describe what he actually does

can lead to frustration. "How do I train my dogs? I don't whistle, I use commands."

The answer is infuriatingly inadequate for it belies the long hours of dedication which have turned the dogs into efficient extensions of their master's mind. Some people claim that only fear can make dogs like those work so well. But Meg and Dovey were clearly enjoying themselves as they raced to round up the sheep on the icy mountain slope.

With such a big enterprise to manage, almost single handed, Simon Jones is a busy man at the best of times on his 900 acre farm, Ysguborau, near Tywyn, Gwynedd.

From the end of February through to April, when most people are indoors he is out lambing the major part of his 1,452 ewe flock. After working with the sheep all day he backs this up with two-hourly inspections throughout the night, stealing the odd hour's sleep in a

chair between his midwifery rounds.

Last year, 90 lambs arrived one night between seven pm and dawn and this coming spring will be even more hectic as he is expecting 200 to lamb in two days. With characteristic reserve, he said: "I'm a little pleased to see the middle of April come, when things start to slacken off a bit".

To the uninitiated one Welsh mountain ewe looks exactly like another, but Mr Jones actually knows by sight many of his flock. On the high mountain only the fit middle-aged ewes remain through winter, surviving on what they can scavenge from the sparse vegetation with black feeding from January onwards, when conditions get hard.

One characteristic of the ewes helps Mr Jones enormously for some territorial instinct prevents them from crossing the mountain to the next valley.

Today Mr Jones's life will be

dramatically different for at lunchtime he is due to receive his award in the House of Commons from Lord Home of the Hirsel. While he was excited and honoured by the prospect, he thought of the journey to the metropolis clearly held more dread for him than searching for a lost sheep in the worst of the winter conditions.

The ceremony over, Mr Jones will waste no time in returning to Ysguborau with his wife Lynda, who admits that at times she has to take second place to sheep.

Ever Mr Jones is short of guidance, he can turn the dial of his forebears back to his great, great-grandfather, starting in 1815, when sheep were worth eleven shillings. As he said before we left him on his mountain: "Sheep are in my blood".

The Shepherd of the Year award is organized by Livestock Farming and sponsored by Rumenco Limited.

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

#### Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh visits Field Aviation at Heathrow, 2.30; as president of the Royal Society of Arts, presents awards for design management, Albert medal and the Benjamin Franklin medal at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, Adelphi, WC2, 6.

The Duke of Gloucester opens the International Round Table for the advancement of the counsel-

ling, international consultation on career guidance in higher education, Robinson College, Cambridge, 9.55.

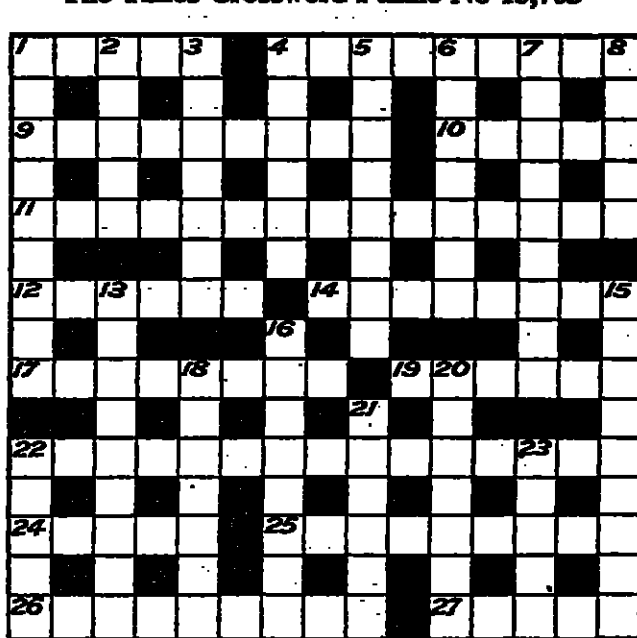
#### Exhibitions

Artists' Christmas cards. Coffee Shop Gallery, 10-6, and paintings and prints by Stanley William Hayter, to celebrate his 80th birthday, 10-6, both at Tate Gallery.

Birmingham Polytechnic MA textile shows, 1981, at Kensington Exhibition Centre, Kensington High Street, 10-5.

Eric Kemington's famous

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,705



### ACROSS

- 1 Quiet times for bookmakers (5).
- 2 Of high social rank - like Tenniel? (3-6).
- 3 Gets into trouble after theatre performance (9).
- 4 Silver and gold taken to a market place (5).
- 5 Too much drink for chief Muse? (3,4,5).
- 6 "Pretty-dimpled boys, like smiling" - (A & C) (6).
- 7 Signs after giving address (8).
- 8 Tapers include many a fellow native (8).
- 9 Very big flag for a god (6).
- 10 Where the RAMC are getting into line with NATO - it's unusual (8-7).
- 11 Way East appears after defeat (5).
- 12 Fish joins four retired Republics in a mock serenade (9).
- 13 Run your best, Veronica! (9).
- 14 Live for many a spring (5).

### DOWN

- 1 Concerned with spy found in laboratory perforce (7).
- 2 Word "negro" improperly used by offender (5-4).
- 3 Cook gets a point in hill-climb (6).
- 4 Course of action for church with rude members (5).
- 5 Necessary letters written on foreign milk rise (9).
- 6 Main adherent confused Abel about Navy Bill (8).
- 7 Hang upsetting the country - boy? (7).
- 8 Turn to observe foul, say? (3-4).
- 9 Mistake to raise starting in republic (6).
- 10 Game to take the violin out (5).
- 11 Angry buccaneer lost head (5).

**The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 15,704 will appear next Saturday**

### Tomorrow's events

#### Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh visits the Burnaby Workshop, South-west, 11.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron, attends the Not Forgotten Association's Christmas party at the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Palace, 3.

Exhibitions

Ancient Chinese sculpture at Bokenham, at Foxglove House, 166 Piccadilly, 10-6.

Guitar and the Scottish Realists, the Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, W1, 9.30-5.30.

Paintings by Patrick Caulfield, Tate Gallery, 10-5.

An exhibition by three Polish artists, Art Gallery, 6-8 Rosebery Avenue, EC1, 11-6.

Talks, lectures

Christmas lectures for sixth form students, Lecture Hall, Natural History Museum, 2.

"How to be an artist", the William Townsend lecture, by Howard Hodgkin, Bonny Theatre, University College of London, Gower Street, 5.30.

Social Union in the Ruhr, 1918-21: The lessons for labour history, by Dr R. G. German, Historical Institute, 42 Russell Square, WCI, 5.

Music

English Christmas music given by players and singers from the Early Music Centre in the setting of the Tudor Gallery, Museum of London, 12.30 and 1.15.

Quaker English alchemists—A barrel of fun walk, meet, Green Park Underground, 7.30.

Greenwich walkabout daily, meet the Walkabout Guide, Greenwich Walk, 12.30 or 3.

Paintings The Kensingtons at Lavender, Imperial War Museum, 10.5-5.30.

America at play, 1870-1955, exhibition of American toys, the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2, 10-6.

Talks, lectures

Christmas lecture for sixth form students, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, Lecture Hall, 3.

The Gospel and the Inner City, by the Rev Robert Nind, St James's Church, Piccadilly, 1.

Growing up in the East End, by Louis Hearn, NF Forum, Ben Art Gallery, Dean St, W1, 1.15.

"Bronze Age Britain", by David Williams, British Museum, 11.30.

### The Pound

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.78	1.63
Austria Sch	81.45	29.35
Belgium Fr	86.00	82.00
Canada \$	2.31	2.22
Denmark Kr	14.38	13.68
Finland Mk	8.64	8.15
France Fr	11.25	10.65
Germany DM	4.44	4.20
Greece Dr	123.00	115.00
Hongkong \$	11.08	10.40
Ireland Pt	1.23	1.18
Italy Lit	2340.00	2240.00
Japan Yen	438.00	412.00
Netherlands Gld	8.25	7.85
Norway Kr	11.40	10.80
Portugal Esc	127.00	120.00
South Africa Rand	1.87	1.71
Spain Ptas	160.50	151.50
Sweden Kr	10.82	10.36
Switzerland Sfr	3.65	3.43
USA \$	1.94	1.84
Yugoslavia Dnr	87.00	82.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied on Friday by the Bank of England. Figures are in pence, unless stated to the contrary.

London: The FT Index fell 5.3 to 520.2 on Friday evening.

New York: The Dow Jones Industrial average was down 5.61 at 886.42.

### Nature notes

Large, chattering flocks of field-fares are common now out on snowy fields or in hedgerows. The song-thrushes that are often found with them are quieter and less easily alarmed. Our resident thrushes, the song-thrush and the mistle-thrush, do not mix much with these winter visitors. But both the redwing and the fieldfare have established themselves as the flock moves on, while the goldcrest stays well up among the branches.

Young spruces are out for Christmas trees; on the older spruces, the seeds ripen slowly, usually taking a year from flowering to the opening of the long, elegant cones. On Scots pines, the cones do not normally drop their seeds till they are two years old. These pine cones are much prized by squirrels, woodpeckers, and in Scotland and Norfolk by the crossbills, who wrench them off the branches and hold them in their claws, while extracting the seeds with their tongues.

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### The papers

What has happened in Poland was inevitable, the Daily Mirror comments today: communism and freedom are alternative states. So General Jaruzelski, the man known as a moderate, has done all the familiar immoderate things. A state of emergency, martial law, midnight arrests, telephone lines cut, airports and borders closed, troops on the streets and a curfew.

"It is impossible to guess the end of the crisis. The Soviets don't want to intervene if they can help it; why keep a jacket and howl yourself? But if they do, the cold that will settle over Europe will be colder than the Polish winter."

La Stampa of Turin recalls that, next door to the Polish street, talks between the West German Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt, and the East German leader, Herr Erich Honecker, have been going on which describe a formal atmosphere of cordiality, have left the two leaders with no issues.

The Observer writes that Mr Michael Foot has manifestly failed to do the job he was brought in as leader of the Labour Party to do, that is, heal its wounds and reconcile internal conflicts.

The Sunday Times believes the controversy raging against Lord's bid for the House of Monopolies and Mergers Commission is leading to some of the cases referred to it.

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### Weather

A low will move away from S England as a further low approaches W Scotland.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, SW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Showers of rain or drizzle, some heavy, some clearing to sun. Wind, strong to gale, then temp 5 to 10 (4 to 9) F.

Midland: Occasional rain, but sun, some bright intervals; wind, fresh to strong, then temp 5 to 10 (4 to 9) F.

Wales, central S, SW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Showers of rain or drizzle, some heavy, some clearing to sun. Wind, strong to gale, then temp 5 to 10 (4 to 9) F.

North: Showers of rain or drizzle, some heavy, some clearing to sun. Wind, strong to gale, then temp 5 to 10 (4 to 9) F.

West: Showers of rain or drizzle, some heavy, some clearing to sun. Wind, strong to gale, then temp 5 to 10 (4 to 9) F.

South: Showers of rain or drizzle, some heavy, some clearing to sun. Wind, strong to gale, then temp 5 to 10 (4 to 9) F.

East: Showers of rain or drizzle, some heavy, some clearing to sun. Wind, strong to gale, then temp 5 to 10 (4 to 9) F.

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